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Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk July 19, 2015

East edition No 669

HEALTH

NHS pressure grows as unit forced to close

Why our hospitals are struggling to recruit

TRANSPORT

Stack takes bite out of tourist trade

Counting the cost of another week of problems on the M20

EVENTS

War and Peace set to battle on

Talks to see leading event change hands for next year

NEWS

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Special report on fox hunting after a dramatic week in the Commons

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Sharp contrasts of our 21st century society

AS PHOTOGRAPHS of the planet Pluto were beamed back to us from a frankly terrifying number of billions of miles away, you could not help but delight in the remarkable efforts of man to achieve such a mission.

Granted, we were putting men on the Moon nearly 50 years ago, but the sheer distances covered and the quality of the data received from the Pluto probe was very much the fruits of our 21st century quest for discovery and enlightenment.

Contrast that, then, with the fiasco in the Commons this week over the free vote on changes to the hugely controversial Hunting Act; pulled at the last moment as the SNP intervened to put David Cameron en route for an almost certain defeat.

It seems very strange that in the same week as our Pluto achievements we should be pondering the return of a

tradition which, even when looked at with all arguments taken into account, is still basically a lot of humans, big horses and big dogs, chasing down a smaller animal and killing it. If the argument is purely about controlling the fox population, well there are more humane ways of doing so.

Like plenty of other once fine traditions, our rural areas have not disintegrated without it and there is no clamour from the public for it to return. What's more, surely there are more important issues for our

MPs to be debating? Humanity can curse its reputation as much as it can bless it. But this week the triumph should be purely focused of the scientific and getting those remarkable images back from the edge of our Solar System. Not the efforts to bring back a 'sport' which has long since had its day.



Editor **Chris Britcher**

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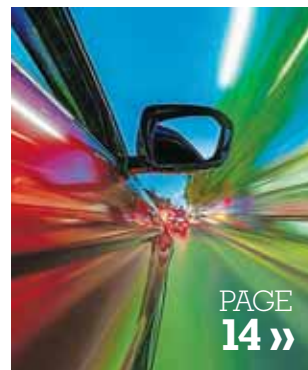
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What will judgement be for under threat courts?

By Tim Miles

tim.miles@archant.co.uk

COURTROOMS across the county face closure as part of the latest proposals put forward by the Ministry of Justice this week.

Magistrates courts at Dartford and Dover face the threat of the axe - as does the county and family court in Tunbridge Wells.

In total, it is estimated their closure would save the public purse around £1million.

The closure threat comes as part of the latest raft of changes to the running of court services nationally by the HM Courts & Tribunals Service in England and Wales.

According to government figures, Dartford ran at only 30 per cent of its capacity from 2014/15. The plan would see its cases moved to Chatham Magistrates' Court, saving £213,000.

The figures for Dover are 15 per cent, with cases moved to Folkestone magistrates and £347,000 saved, while Tunbridge Wells operates at just 17 per cent, with its workload shared between family courts in Maidstone, Medway, Dartford and Canterbury,



DECISION: A 12-week consultation period into the future of the courts is now under way

saving around £463,000.

The consultation paper states: "This is an opportunity to stand back and reconsider the existing arrangements and to rationalise the estate so that best value for money is provided for users and taxpayers alike. The courts and tribunals estate costs taxpayers approximately £500m each year. "These proposals will provide the organisation with a reduced and sustainable estate from which to

deliver our business, increase efficiency, and improve our services."

There will now be a 12-week public consultation before any final decision is made on the plans.

The news has angered Dartford Conservative MP and former solicitor, Gareth Johnson. He said: "This decision is deeply concerning. Having previously worked at the court, I know that if it closes it will cause significant difficulties

for witnesses, police officers and other court users.

"Whilst there has been an increase in using modern technology to bring evidence to courtrooms, this will never completely replace witnesses physically attending court and could put off some witnesses giving evidence. I have spoken to the minister about this announcement and requested an urgent meeting with him and I hope that there will be a rethink."

Councillor slams use of timber frame as unsafe for Tannery blaze flats

FLATS which were destroyed in a blaze that ripped through Canterbury's Tannery development must not be rebuilt in the same style, according to the area's councillor.

Michael Dixey, the ward representative on Canterbury City Council, says he would not accept it if the building was redeveloped using a controversial timber frame.

The chartered engineer says that tragedy could be around the corner if a timber frame were to be used again.

Speaking to KoS, Cllr Dixey said: "It would be a grave mistake for the developers to be rebuilt in the same way as before.

"If the fire had been at 2am, we would have been talking about a tragedy with loss of life. It was only because it was at that time of day that people were able to react so quickly and injury or worse was avoided.

"Across the country there have been a number of serious types of fire

in this type of timber frame building. Although I'm sure the building complied with building regulations, I think there are definite questions about the safety of this type of building."

Cllr Dixey told KoS that if the building's owner - Town and Country Housing Group - were to rebuild with timber frame, he would demand a full sprinkler system throughout.

He said: "Without a sprinkler system, if it's rebuilt as it was in the past, I imagine people would be extremely reluctant to return to the building. I know I would be, as it would not be safe.

"There are real safety questions over the use of timber frames. I think the rules will change in the next few years so they're no longer allowed."

When contacted, Town and Country Housing Group refused to rule out rebuilding with a timber frame, simply stating the flats would be redeveloped within 12 months.

Hospital A&E shows signs of life after figures improve

TWO years after being placed in special measures, the accident and emergency department of Gillingham's Medway Maritime hospital appears to be on the road to recovery.

The hospital was plunged into crisis last year, amid claims its A&E was one of the worst in the country.

But according to figures released this week, in four of the 13

weeks up until June 28, its A&E treated at least 95 per cent of patients within the government's target time of four hours.

In the other nine weeks, at least 90 per cent of patients were seen within four hours.

A fresh management team was parachuted into the hospital to turn its fortunes around after the damning findings.

Ferry firm's frustration as Operation Stack returns

FERRY firm DFDS is continuing to divert a fourth ship to its Dover to Dunkirk service, as strike action continues to prevent it running a full service into Calais.

It is the reduced cross-Channel capacity, coupled with invasions by migrants at Eurotunnel, which saw Operation Stack make an unwelcome return to the county's roads on Wednesday.

French workers continue to occupy the former MyFerryLink vessels - which DFDS was hoping to takeover - as part of on-going protests about the firm's closure.

It comes amid mounting fears disruption over the traditionally busy school holidays could cause misery for holidaymakers.

For more on Operation Stack turn to page 12.



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Spa town crack and heroin dealers sentenced

TWO drug dealers who tried to sell heroin and crack cocaine near Tunbridge Wells Common have been sentenced.

Police officers seized 43 wraps of Class A drugs when Christopher Gibson, 46, from Durnsford Road, Wimbledon, and Trevor Cope, 53, from Gladstone Road, Rusthall, were arrested last year and then

discovered more drugs at a flat in London.

Appearing at Maidstone Crown Court, Gibson pleaded not guilty to possessing heroin and cocaine with intent to supply but was convicted by a jury.

He was sentenced to four years in jail. Cope pleaded guilty and was given an 18 month suspended sentence and ordered to do six months unpaid community work.



SICK: Status Quo's Rick Parfitt

Illness pulls plug on Quo castle concert

FANS of rockers Status Quo were left disappointed after the band pulled out of a sell-out show in Rochester on Wednesday night just hours before they were due to go on stage.

The group, famous for opening Live Aid in 1985 and for hits such as 'Rockin' All Over the World' and 'Whatever You Want', had been set to open the annual series of Castle Concerts in the grounds of Rochester Castle.

But fans were delivered a hammer blow when the group confirmed that, due to illness, they were having to pull out of the performance.

They have vowed to re-arrange and play again in 2016.

A spokesman for Medway Council, which organises the shows, said: "Rick Parfitt from Status Quo was taken ill and therefore Wednesday's show was cancelled.

"We wish Rick a speedy recovery and would like to thank the audience for their co-operation and understanding. We will be rescheduling the Status Quo concert for Wednesday, July 13 2016. Valid tickets for this week's show can be exchanged for the 2016 show by calling the box office on 01634-338338 from 10am on Monday, July 20."

All other concerts this week went ahead as planned.

War and Peace Revival to fight another day after organisation takes over

By Chris Britcher

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ORGANISERS of the hugely popular War and Peace Revival show say they are finalising handing over the running of the event to a new team – a move which will mean it continues after this summer's event.

Just three weeks ago, Rex and Barbara Cadman, owners of the event which ran for years at the Hop Farm in Paddock Wood and is now staged at Folkestone Racecourse, announced they were to retire.

And, as a consequence, revealed 2015's event, which runs from July 22 to 26, would be the last after more than 30 years.

But now it has been saved – news which will be met with delight by the 100,000 people who visit each year.

Rex Cadman said: "Following our announcement on June 23, we were overwhelmed by the number of people that came forward expressing an interest to buy War and Peace. We had some incredible offers from big



SAFE: Event will continue after 2015

businesses and organisations that totally took us by surprise.

"Having recovered from our surprise, it became apparent to us that the future of War and Peace was not about how much, but about finding

the right custodian for its future.

"Now, Barbara and I, and the team, feel we have found the right people to take up what we are leaving behind and move it forward into a new glorious future and we are concluding negotiations with the potential new owner/organiser of War and Peace.

"Judging from the many hundreds of emails that we have received since we announced our retirement in June, the opinion of the military vehicle world is there is only one War and Peace."

Details about the new owners have not yet been made public.

Mr Cadman added: "We are negotiating with a fantastic company with really lovely people who we know will do their very best to continue War and Peace in its true vein and who love the show as much as we all do. Barbara, and I, and the team will support the new custodians for at least 12 months and give them all the guidance they need."

The War and Peace Revival is one of the county's biggest events.

Taxi drivers taught to look out for sex rings

TAXI drivers are being educated as part of a pilot project to help identify child sexual exploitation rings.

The training will include keeping an eye out for any patterns in journeys and whether drivers are being asked to take the same adults or young people to the same address or multiple addresses.

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council is piloting training sessions, Safeguarding Children Abused through Sexual Exploitation, in what will be the first time it is rolled out in Kent.

The pilot sessions for managers, supervisors and drivers will be rolled out to 584 Hackney Carriage and private hire drivers in the borough.

Brian Luker, the council's cabinet member for community safety, said: "With the recent high profile cases we are making this training mandatory for all new applicants and taxi drivers who are currently licensed with the council. This will ensure operators, managers and drivers are aware of the signs to look out for and who to contact if they have any concerns."

Crowdfunding for open air cinema firm

A FOLKESTONE film buff has launched a crowdfunding campaign to bring free, open air cinema to community groups across the county.

Zachary Cooke runs The Open Air Cinema and has been screening films outside since 2008, but wants to extend across the county and further afield.

He hopes by encouraging donations - in exchange for everything from VIP passes to a private cinema experience, he will be able to expand even further. The target is £9,000 which will ensure screenings can continue.

He said: "We've screened lots of films, using public funding and our own money, but we can't continue without an injection of funds."

So far it has eight screenings planned for this year - including Jaws on the beach in Broadstairs and Dirty Dancing in Gravesend.

For further details of screenings and how to donate to the crowdfunding effort, which is being conducted via the Kickstarter website, visit the website www.theopenaircinema.com.

Standing ovation at graduation ceremony

STUDENTS at a graduation ceremony at Canterbury Cathedral gave a moving tribute to a 27-year-old on their course who died suddenly of unknown causes in the third year of his studies.

Robert Butler was found dead at his home in Canterbury in November last year. He would have celebrated his 28th birthday just days later.

Wednesday saw the day he should have graduated from the school of physical sciences at the university at a special ceremony attended by family and friends.

The university awarded Mr Butler a posthumous degree, which was presented to Mr Butler's parents during the event.

As one, the hundreds of students who lined the cathedral stood and applauded their fallen friend.

Said one of those in the congregation: "It was extremely moving and moved many to tears. It was a gesture which, I am sure, would have given his family a great deal of comfort despite their agony."

Rob Butler's death came a year after his brother, Dave, had died after a brief battle with cancer.

Organisers hail county show huge hit as 77,000 defy Stack

By Chris Britcher

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ORGANISERS of last weekend's Kent County Show have hailed the event as a huge success after more than 77,000 people attended the three day show.

And that despite the fact Operation Stack was in place throughout Friday, adding significant time to the journeys of those heading to the showground in Detling.

The figures exceed last year's total of 75,000. Kevin Attwood, chairman of the Kent County Agricultural Society, organisers of the annual event, said: "We are absolutely delighted with the figures.

"However, just as importantly, we have been inundated with positive feedback from visitors, exhibitors and competitors."

Operation Stack saw the stretch of motorway between Leeds Castle and Ashford closed for much of the week – and throughout Friday – fuelling fears there could be traffic problems in and around the site.

Especially as Detling sits on the main road linking the M20 with alternative route to the coast, the M2.

Stack was finally lifted in the early hours of Saturday morning.

Organisers said Kent Highways and the police worked hard to keep the traffic flow-



PACKED: Huge crowds flocked to Detling for last weekend's three-day event

ing and prevent major problems for those heading to the show.

It certainly didn't reflect in the attendance figures, with Friday's numbers up almost 50 per cent on the opening day last year.

It was buoyed by a special display by the Red Arrows.

Lucy Hegarty, show manager, said "We have tried for many years to have the Red Arrows, however, being such a worldwide attraction they have always had prior engagements. The wait was absolutely worth

it, they literally stopped the show.

"On Friday the BBC Countryfile team of Adam Henson, Tom Heap, Matt Baker, Ellie Harrison and Anita Rani, spent the whole day taking part in activities and demonstrations, meeting our visitors and filming their summer special which will be aired on July 26.

"There was also an outstanding range of big names and local companies exhibiting this year."

Organisers also confirmed the dates for the 2016 event will be July 15-17.

Southeastern slices 25% off train fares

TRAIN company Southeastern has announced it is to slash 25 per cent off off-peak tickets bought online from now until the last week of August.

The offer includes single and return tickets and must be booked via its website. It runs until August 24.

Tickets can even be bought on the day of travel, as long as travellers leave two hours between purchasing online and collecting from a station.

Share experiences of criminal justice system

POLICE and crime commissioner Ann Barnes has launched a survey to find out the experiences of victims and witnesses in the criminal justice system.

Mrs Barnes said: "I encourage people to take the opportunity to tell us their views."

The survey is anonymous and can be found online at www.kent-pcc.gov.uk

Maidstone tourism

COUNCILLORS have given the green light to a strategic plan to help Maidstone's tourism industry.

The destination management plan aims to improve key areas of the county town and its surrounding villages and bring together tourist marketing to promote the appeal of the area and attract more visitors.

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Plug pulled on rising band after all instruments stolen

A HOTLY-tipped band from Maidstone has been silenced, after crooks stole thousands of pounds worth of music equipment from their van.

Indie quartet Kaleidophone – described as ‘an English Vampire Weekend’ – are now appealing for help in finding their gear which is threatening to derail their career.

Equipment including guitars, pedals, keyboards and drums were all reported stolen from a van between July 13 and 14. It had been parked outside an address in Heather Drive, Maidstone.

Many of the stolen pieces were stored in cases which carried the band's name. The owner of the van reported there were no obvious signs of entry to the vehicle. It was only noticed that the equipment had been stolen following checks



in the rear of the vehicle.

Acting Detective Chief Inspector Michael Coltham said: “The band members have lost everything and at this stage are unable to perform. Many of the items were personal

and can't easily be replaced. Much of this equipment is very distinctive and will be easily recognisable as belonging to a band.”

Anyone with information should call 01622 604100.

Grammar waits on nod for redevelopment plans

CANTERBURY selective school, Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School (SLGGS) has revealed ambitious redevelopment plans.

If the school is able to get the green light from the Department for Education (DfE), it could mean improvements which could accommodate up to 1,200 pupils on the site's current car park.

It would also mean a new sports hall for the school – something it has been after for many years.

The school's head teacher, Jane Robinson, broke the news in a letter to parents, thanking them for putting up with the school's current ‘ancient’ buildings. In it the head teacher said that the school had commissioned a fully-costed condition survey to demon-

strate that refurbishment of the school's current building was a less economic choice than an entirely new build.

The school is now in for a wait, with a final decision on whether it will be rebuilt, or its current building refurbished, likely in autumn.

The head teacher wrote: “If the outcome is total rebuild, it will mean our new school can be rebuilt as we carry on in the old premises, then we can just transfer sites while the old school is demolished.

“The building will be of a standardised design and could be configured in a number of ways on our site.

“This is something which we have fought for over a number of years and it is now a reality, and we know it is fully-funded.”

Battle stamps on sale

THE Royal Mail has this week released six special stamps to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain with two Kent-based squadrons of Spitfires featured.

Included are planes based both at RAF Hawinge and Biggin Hill. They're on sale now.

BBC show at the castle

POPULAR TV show the Antiques Roadshow will be filming at Walmer Castle, near Deal, today (Sunday).

Fronted by Fiona Bruce, the BBC team will line up experts to value items between 9am and 4.30pm. Admission is free and the show will be broadcast later this year.

Charity awards are open

ENTRIES are open now for the second annual Kent Charity Awards.

Categories include care, animal, children's and community. Deadline for entries is October 23. Winners will be announced in March 2016. To enter and for details, see www.kentcharityawards.com.

Councillor dies suddenly

TRIBUTES have been paid to Conservative councillor Alistair Black who died suddenly on Monday.

Cllr Black had represented the Fant ward on Maidstone Borough Council since 2011, being re-elected in May. He died after a short illness at Maidstone Hospital.

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Top Three Stories



1. Right to buy homes

Will it make the housing crisis worse?

2. Hunt sabs criticise CPS

Fox hunting case is thrown out of court

3. Kent band silenced

Musical equipment stolen from tour vans

The Essential Guide:



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FEATURED PHOTO GALLERY: Television presenter Carol McGiffin took part in the Maidstone Race for Life. The Loose Women star has been battling breast cancer, so this year's event was especially poignant for her. Turn inside to find out more.

All the news, all week

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Top Three Blogs



1. The diktats of binmen

Another tale of woe about refuse collections

2. The eternal children

Why men don't grow out of computer games

3. OCR - a race or a cult?

The fitness trend brainwashing people

Results of the KoS Online Poll

Operation Stack: Where should a lorry park go?

1	Lots of small parks	37%
2	Manston Airport	31%
3	A large park near the coast	14%
4	Other	17%



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PRESSURE: Long term planning needs to take place to ensure enough staff are recruited and retained according to the Royal College of Nursing

Chemotherapy service closed as NHS staff levels become critical

A lack of forward planning and investment is causing health service to catch a cold, reports **Jamie Weir**

THE National Health Service is one of Britain's most revered services – and is often described as 'the envy of the world' – but its reputation is threatened by an inability to recruit staff for some of its more specialised services.

The problem came to a head this week with the temporary closure of the Celia Blakey chemotherapy unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford.

Some patients will be treated by a visiting mobile unit, while those with more complex needs will need to travel to the Kent & Canterbury to receive their treatment for cancer.

The closure comes shortly after news the same trust was considering centralising A&E care by cutting the service at Margate's QEOM hospital and the William Harvey, and expanding the offering in Canterbury.

One reason given for the change was the difficulty in recruiting key staff members for A&E departments.

The reason for the closure of the chemotherapy unit was also staffing shortages, with the East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust (EKHFT), which runs the hospital, stating it had been shut due to a struggle to recruit sufficient specialist chemotherapy nurses.

Jaz Mallan, the trust's head of strategic resourcing, told KoS: "We need to look at innovative ways of attracting staff. We are working with agencies for overseas recruitment to fill our vacancies in areas which we find hard to recruit to in England due to

national staff shortages, such as A&E consultants, sonographers and speciality doctors.

"Also, the body NHS Employers is lobbying Government to review immigration restrictions for people coming to work in the NHS, as this is an additional challenge we face."

Dr Navin Kumta, chairman of the NHS Ashford Clinical Commissioning Group, said that closing the unit was the right thing to do.

Dr Kumta said: "Chemotherapy can be intense and gruelling for many patients and we do not want to add to this with unnecessary journeys to Canterbury."

"East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust has assured us that this is a temporary move while more chemotherapy nurses are trained and recruited."

"Providing patients with safe, high quality treatment is a priority for all parts of the NHS. It would not be clinically safe to keep the Celia Blakey Centre open without the right number of staff."

"We will work with the trust to ensure that this situation is resolved as soon as possible so that this vital treatment can continue in the unit."

The closure, however, may be a precursor to other staffing problems – something Ashford MP Damian Green says is an issue in Kent.

He told KoS: "We have a specific problem in east Kent – particularly if we bring nurses in from abroad – of staff wanting the bright lights of London, and being able to easily move there instead of staying in Kent."

“ You can't have a pay freeze, ask more from staff and cut resources back without workers deciding they're going to vote with their feet ”

Steve Bolton, Unison regional healthcare spokesman

"However, recruitment of staff is a national issue, and something which I know health ministers have worked hard on over the last few years. I'm hopeful we'll see some of the results from that work filtering into the NHS soon."

One person who feels the staff situation is unlikely to get better any time soon is Peggy Pryer.

The former nurse of more than 30 years and healthcare campaigner, told KoS that the Royal College of Nursing had foreseen the crisis many years before.

She said: "There has been an absolute reliance on using foreign doctors, and foreign nurses, imported to the UK to help staff the NHS over the past 20 years."

"It has meant the number of people training in these professions has dwindled, leading to the recruitment shortfalls which we're now seeing."

"Also contributing to the shortfall

is the fact there are no longer enough places at universities to actually train all of the fresh staff that are needed."

"That means that we aren't even able to get new staff through the system at a fast enough rate to reverse this problem."

The issue has been exacerbated by recent Government cutbacks according to Unison's regional organiser for health in the south east, Simon Bolton.

Unison represents thousands of healthcare professionals across the county.

Mr Bolton told KoS the situation was set to get worse if NHS funding fell in the future.

He said: "It's not just chucking money at the NHS which will fix this crisis."

"However, the £20 billion of cuts which have been levied on the NHS over the past few years have led to a situation where if hospitals want to expand in one area, they're forced to make cutbacks elsewhere."

"That means staff end up placed under greater pressures, and are deciding they no longer want to work in the NHS."

"You can't have a pay freeze, ask more and more from staff and cut resources back without workers deciding they're going to vote with their feet and leave. If they can work in London for better salaries, then there's every chance they will."

That's a view which is echoed by MP Damian Green.

He said: "Experience shows that if people are satisfied with their job,

they are less likely to leave."

"We need to make sure that staff aren't simply recruited, but that they are retained in the NHS as well."

The Tory MP said that he was hopeful hospital bosses would ensure the William Harvey Hospital regained its chemotherapy unit.

He said: "What needs to happen is for the hospitals' trust to train up the right number of specialist nurses, and bring the service back in an expanded form. It would be good to see the unit move into better accommodation, and get staffing levels up to ensure it provides the best possible service for its users."

Longer term planning is something the Royal College of Nursing (RCN), thinks the NHS needs to have more of.

Dr Peter Carter, the chief executive and general secretary of the RCN, said: "The stakes are extremely high for the entire care system in the UK over the next few years."

"It is important to continue warning that short term decision making is already storing up serious problems for the future. The NHS is trying to work with uncertainty about its workforce. A large proportion of that workforce is made up of temporary staff, many from overseas, large numbers of whom may be forced to leave the country in the coming years."

"Nurses are urging the Government and MPs to heed the evidence for preventative health services and take a long term, strategic view on how to maintain a workforce and health services that can survive for decades, not simply the next financial year."

Spectre of Stack casts shadow on tourist attractions over summer

With the school holidays just around the corner, we take a look at how some of the county's leading attractions are struggling as visitors steer clear amid concerns of getting caught in Operation Stack

By Molly Kersey
molly.kersy@archant.co.uk

TOURIST venues across the east of the county are continuing to count the cost of Operation Stack as visitors steer clear in a bid to avoid getting caught up in traffic chaos.

And with the school summer holidays just around the corner, they are praying disruption does not continue during what is their most profitable time of year.

Tourism chiefs confirmed this week the major venues had seen a dip in numbers – a pain felt more keenly as Stack has often coincided with some of the best weather of the summer.

Stack, which involves chunks of the M20 being turned into a massive lorry park, was implemented once again this week – the fourth week in a row.

And with continuing problems at the ports – with MyFerryLink staff still causing disruption to services which rival firm DFDS had expected to take over – there is no sign of it easing any time soon.

With just P&O and Eurotunnel operating across the busy route, any problems with their services will al-

most inevitably prompt the implementation of Stack and with it a huge strain not just on the M20, but anywhere east of Maidstone as A-roads are forced to take the strain of the extra traffic.

As if to highlight the negative impact, this week KoS was contacted by David Hughes, a tourist from New Zealand.

He had been visiting the county only to find himself caught up in the disruption caused by Stack.

He explained in a letter (the full text of which can be seen on our letters page): "As an overseas visitor coming to stay in Kent for a week's holiday I was aghast to see Operation Stack, orchestrated by the local police, in action on the M20.

"I know of no other country that closes its largest local motorway to turn it into a truck park.

"I can't recommend anyone visit or stay in Kent if this cavalier approach to motorway management is the norm."

Chief executive of Visit Kent, the county's tourism champion, Sandra Matthews-Marsh, said that research was still being collected to see just how extensively people had been affected.

But she said they were aware of attractions reporting a dip in visitor numbers.

She told KoS: "We are gathering feedback from the industry to gain a clear picture of how Operation Stack affects our partners, and we will report back on this in due course.

"Anecdotally, we have heard that the travel disruption has had an impact on attractions' visitor numbers at points.

"However, we have also heard good feedback about partners being very proactive in responding to travellers' needs and sending out the message that Kent is still open for business."

Neil McCollum, historic properties director for English Heritage, South East, which manages a number of significant venues, said Dover Castle had seen a drop in numbers.

He told KoS: "We have seen a drop in visitors at Dover Castle during the recent extended implementation of Operation Stack.

"There have also been a significant number of cancellations from pre-booked school groups."

He explained: "Visitors to Dover Castle are vitally important in helping us to maintain and protect the national collection of

historic properties in our care.

"If the use of the M20 for Operation Stack continues as a pattern, we would become concerned about the impact on our business and that of our neighbours in the Dover area."

Leeds Castle has also seen its visitors numbers take a slight hit, and has been working hard to spread the message that it was still accessible to people who want to make the trip.

It has been made worse by the fact Stack comes into force at the turn off for Leeds Castle, meaning heavy traffic towards the turn-off for the venue.

Shane Guy, head of tourism at Leeds Castle, said: "Stack starts right at our junction.

"What I don't think would have helped us is the fact the castle is associated with the announcement of Operation Stack.

"That association with traffic and Leeds Castle would, I would assume, have an impact on the visitors thinking 'well we might not travel to Leeds Castle today because they are right where Operation Stack is.'"

He confirmed that last time Stack was implemented visitor numbers had seen a dip.

"We did notice a decrease but that

might have happened anyway," he told KoS.

And he said it had been difficult knowing how to combat the issue.

"Nobody really wants to put an advert out saying 'such and such is going on but come to us anyway'," he explained.

"All we can use is our whole data base to say we are still open and there are alternative routes, but that's going to people who have been to us before," he added.

"It's a difficult one. You don't want to play on it and you want to do something to go the other way and to say we are still open.

"That's really the message that we will try and push out – that we are still open and we are still accessible."

He added: "It's frustrating for a lot of businesses and it does seem to bring Kent to a halt."

Damian Collins, Conservative MP for Folkestone and Hythe, shares this view.

He wrote on his website: "The imposition of Operation Stack this summer has been completely intolerable and we will continue to press for more to be done to protect Kent from it and keep our roads open."



HIT: Dover Castle has seen its numbers hit hard by Operation Stack in recent weeks deterring visitors from making the trip



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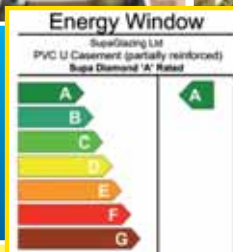
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How education is putting the brakes on drivers breaking limits

Some motorists caught driving too fast are able to opt for training rather than points and a fine, as Maria Chiorando finds out...

LOVE them or loathe them, there is no denying that speed cameras continue to act as a wake-up call for many motorists that the speeds they are travelling at are against the law.

And for the last 10 years, if you are caught on camera, then you are given an option. Either pay the fine and collect the points on your licence – or attend what is known as a speed awareness course.

Designed to re-educate the motorist with a penchant for going too fast – by pointing out the dangers of speed – the four-hour course is a popular option for many.

"Choosing who is eligible is up to the police," explains Steve Horton, road safety team leader at Kent County Council which provides the course, "if someone is caught speeding, usually by camera, they are reported to the police. If they are within the threshold they get the option to choose between the points, course and court."

"High end offenders do not get the option to take the course."

And by 'high end' that means those who exceed the limit by a considerable distance.

Not that the course is free. Everyone attending needs to pay close to £90.

Adds Mr Horton: "The council is the service provider of these courses, on behalf of Kent Police, who choose to run speed awareness courses in the county."

"Our remit is to deliver a national model. You could get caught speeding in Lancashire, then attend the course in Kent, and it is largely replicated."

According to Mr Horton, the tuition is aimed at 'error makers' rather than those who like to see the speedometer comfortably extend into three digits.

"We look at three different strata of driving," he explains. "There are lapsers, which I would consider myself guilty of. We are already convinced by all the information on

TOP FIVE SPEEDS IN KENT IN 2014

1. 149 mph on the M25, Swanley, speed limit 70mph
2. 146 mph on the M25, Swanley, speed limit 70mph
3. 128 mph on the A2, Canterbury, speed limit 70mph
4. 127 mph on the M25, Swanley, speed limit 70mph
5. 127 mph on the M25, Swanley, speed limit 70mph

not speeding, and we will make sure the way we drive is legal and safe.

"Most people are error makers – people who are considered to be susceptible to rational argument. These are people who have made an error in judgement, or maybe have some bad habits, and need some encouragement to understand the consequences of their actions."

"The last group are violators, who would not be considered for the course. They would require the short, sharp shock of law enforcement or a bad crash to change their behaviour."

If you are caught, there are a number of locations where you can return to the classroom to learn the error of your ways, among them Dartford, Rainham, Aylesford, Canterbury, Ashford and Maidstone.

And they are often very popular, with some 35,000 people opting to attend each year.

Anne-Marie Penny is the partnership project manager for Kent and Medway Safety Cameras – a partnership made up of Medway Council, Kent County Council, Kent Police and Highways England (the organisation formerly known as the Highways Agency).

Continues on page 16

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO ATTEND A SPEED AWARENESS COURSE?

KOS reporter Maria Chiorando got caught speeding as she travelled along the M20. Her punishment was the option of points and a fine or paying to attend the course. Here she explains exactly what happens back in the classroom been re-educated on how to behave on the road.

I DRIVE several hundred miles each and every week - the perils of living on one side of the county and working on the other. What's more, the vast majority of that is motorway-based... and, try as I might, just sometimes it is easy to take your eye off the speedo.

I had been caught driving at 71mph on the motorway. There was a temporary 60mph limit in place. No excuses, just a mistake.

And so, in due course, a notice of intended prosecution fell through the letterbox after I had been caught on one of the M20 motorway's overhead cameras.

Because my case fell within certain parameters, I was given the option of three points and a fine, going to court, or a speed awareness course. Mindful of the impact of points on the cost of my insurance, I decided to do the speed awareness course. It was easy to book online, with a number of dates and locations in the county. Don't think these are free though. To enrol on the course cost me £87.

So after having to take an

afternoon off work, I trudged along to take part - as intrigued to see what they would say other than 'don't drive so fast' more than anything else.

The course tutors, of which there were two, were personable, pointing out that education can be a better deterrent than punishment.

While this is probably true, there was an element of punishment in the course. It was four-and-a-half hours long, and took place during a heatwave. The temperature reached about 37 degrees - this made for a long afternoon in a room lacking the delights of air conditioning.

But I had broken the law, so it was a small price to pay. And there were certainly upsides to the course.

The tutors reminded the 20 students - a mixed age group ranging from early twenties to those dab hands at pocketing a pension - that engagement and enthusiasm was essential to pass the course, so there was no falling asleep at the back. Instead, we were given a number of materials to study including workbooks and videos.

It was shocking to realise how little of the Highway Code I remembered from my driving test days - it is easy to get caught up in a host of bad habits, and highlighting this sloppiness can be no bad thing.

Some of the statistics we were



LIMIT: Warning signs help tell drivers they are going too fast

presented with were certainly thought provoking: a few old videos of shocking TV adverts, from the UK and abroad, of children being hit by cars were played.

Few were left unmoved.

They were interspersed with facts about how much stopping distance can increase with just small increments of speed. It was a sobering realisation, and one which has certainly given me reason to check the speedometer more

frequently when I'm driving in urban areas.

Hazard spotting was another task. It is easy to become complacent when behind the wheel, but, as we were reminded, observation and concentration are just two aspects of safe driving.

Finally, we looked at the implications of speeding, from going to a speed awareness course, all the way up to death, your own or someone else's.

The tutors looked at the behavioural reasons for speeding. To my surprise there were only two people who speed on an open motorway for the pleasure of fast driving: one of whom was a lady in her eighties. "I just love it when you get a long stretch of road and really go for it," she said.

For others, it was about time keeping - essential for delivery drivers who have tight time targets. There are simple answers to all the speeding 'excuses' - for example, leaving extra time for the journey.

One thing to really keep in mind; nearly all accidents happen on urban roads, within a mile of the home, with only four per cent on motorways.

It is a surprising statistic, and a good reminder to keep an eye on your speed even on the roads you feel most comfortable on.

Did I learn anything? Yes.

Will I speed again? Hopefully not.

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Continues from page 15

The partnership was formed in July 2002 and aims to influence, educate and encourage motorists to slow down and stay within the speed limit, in order to prevent accidents.

According to Ms Penny: "After being caught speeding, it is up to the driver to make the decision on whether to pay the fine and accept the points, take the course, or go to court."

"Most people do take advantage of the opportunity to take the course, seeing it as the lesser of three evils, and we get very positive feedback."

"Generally people do not want to go but they get a lot out of it. It's not punishment, but more about recognising that people drive, as a matter of course, safely."

Mr Horton adds: "We don't request feedback after the course, but we do receive unsolicited opinions, and I often get emails from people saying it was fantastic. One man wrote to me to say his behaviour had been adjusted."

"After taking the course, he had hit someone who stepped out in front of his car. There were no injuries, but he knows that if he'd been travelling at the speeds he used to before the course, it would have been a very different story."

EDUCATION: Awareness courses give drivers information on the dangers of speeding as well as highlighting the consequences



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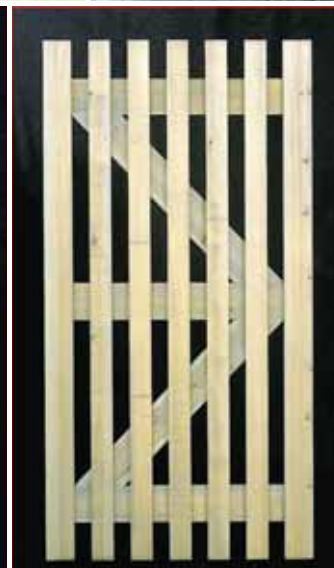


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DISAPPOINTED: The free vote on Wednesday was shelved at the last minute - but the debate over changes to the Hunting Act will resume later this year

Tally no! PM outfoxed by SNP in embarrassing hunting retreat

A decade after the Hunting Act was passed the fox debate still rages on. **Maria Chiorando** reports...

The prime minister was left red-faced this week after being forced to postpone a vote on watering down fox hunting laws.

David Cameron shelved the debate on Tuesday, 24 hours before it was due to take place, after the Scottish National Party confirmed it would be voting, leaving the Tories facing certain defeat.

But one Kent anti-hunting Conservative was disappointed by the SNP's decision to oppose the government, believing their intervention was unnecessary. Sir Roger Gale is the MP for Thanet North, and has long championed animal welfare causes. He is a patron of the Blue Fox Group (Conservatives against fox hunting) as well as a lifetime member of the League Against Cruel Sports.

"I believe there are enough Conservatives to defeat the proposals without the Scots," he explains. "I am not surprised they wanted to have a vote - there are two hunts that work both sides of the border. It is not purely an English issue - the Scots are looking at adjusting their own law."

According to the MP, there are up to 50 Conservatives who would either vote against proposals, or abstain from voting, including sports minister and Chatham MP Tracey Crouch.

The Chatham MP took a brave stance against the PM just weeks after landing her ministerial office.

Sir Roger's 50 may be a little inflated, with others suggested the number was nearer 30, but the contentious issue once again splits the public and the politicians.

Those who support changes to the hunting act, first introduced under Tony Blair's Labour government back in 2005, believe by simply making amendments to the law rather than a straight forward vote to repeal it, there was more chance of success.

'PURE EXHILARATION' - A HUNTER'S TALE

MY FIRST experience of hunting was a children's meet during the Christmas holidays when I was 12.

It was obvious by the way he came alive that my ancient pony, Lucky, had been there, done this many times before and loved it. We stayed out 'til dark and went home shattered but happy. Like so many before me I was bitten by the bug.

The thrill of hunting as a member of the field is obvious. They don't happen that often but a long run across open country, jumping each obstacle as it comes - moments when you feel as though you and the horse are in perfect

union - are pure exhilaration. More often you're clumped together with your friends in a field, or up against a wall if it's raining, chatting and passing round chocolate and hip flasks.

Friendships forged in the hunting field are very special. However we, are peripheral to what hunting is about. Until the advent of the Hunting Act 10 years ago hunting days had a real purpose. Farmers invited hunts to cross their land because it was a good way of controlling fox numbers.

My favourite pre-ban memories are of days when I was one of the

last out and accorded the privilege of riding with the huntsman and watching him work his hounds. Sometimes they caught a fox, sometimes it got away, but that is what distinguishes hunting from other forms of wildlife management. It is selective. The fit young fox who can outpace the hounds is not the one they are after. It is an effective predator and has no need to enter the chicken house or kill lambs. Hunting is a great day out in countryside with your horse and your friends.

• **Charlotte Cooper, of the Countryside Alliance**

Among the key changes included the number of dogs allowed to flush out a fox once it has gone to ground.

Opponents say it will allow fox hunting to return to the countryside through the back door, exploiting an act already fiercely criticised by many for being so difficult to police and enforce.

Kent's MPs are broadly in favour of repealing the ban - perhaps not surprisingly given the county's rural heritage. But there are plenty of MPs who will vote against the PM when the free vote returns.

Dartford MP Gareth Johnson vowed to vote against plans to repeal the law, while neighbouring Tory, Gravesham's Adam Holloway, will vote for it. Ashford's MP Damian Green said: "I have never hunted myself, but believe in people's freedom to hunt."

Not that the alterations are particularly clear. Speaking on the proposed changes, Conservative education minister Liz Truss said: "The

technical amendments we are proposing will not lift the ban on hunting with dogs. The Hunting Act will remain in place and will continue to prohibit the pursuit and killing of a wild animal by dogs."

But animal welfare campaigners - including Sir Roger Gale - claimed the impact of such changes would be significant. Grant Tilman, a spokesman for the East Kent Hunt Saboteurs, said: "The amendments are nothing short of repeal. All of the exemptions to the act have been altered to allow an unlimited number of dogs."

"They'll just pick the exemption that suits them best on the day."

"What all this means is that prosecution under the Hunting Act will be extremely difficult, or even impossible."

The current debate has now been put back until the autumn, but both sides are continuing to campaign. Pro-hunters would like to see a full repeal, while the antis would like to see the current law strengthened.

And the argument looks set to

would be lost and that the countryside would be returned to an unmanaged wilderness.

"In fact, more people are now riding and following drag hunts than ever followed hounds hunting foxes precisely because no animal is killed at the end of the chase."

Dr Toni Shephard, head of policy and research at the League Against Cruel Sports adds: "An 18 year study by the British Trust for Ornithology showed that fox numbers in Britain dropped by 18 per cent between 1995 and 2012, leading scientists to conclude 'the data provides no evidence that fox numbers have increased since the ban'.

"Similarly, ten years of data collected by the People's Trust for Endangered Species led them to conclude the proportion of sites recording foxes has stayed more or less the same going against claims in the media that we are increasingly overrun by foxes."

The primary argument for hunting is 'wildlife management' - controlling the numbers of foxes, with an emphasis on catching the oldest and most diseased, so they do not kill livestock. A frequent claim by hunters is that they pose a risk to sheep and lambs.

Kevin Attwood is chairman of the Kent County Agricultural Society, which stages the Kent County Show at Detling each year, and the Kent spokesman for the National Farmer's Union (NFU).

He says foxes can cause significant damage to lamb livestock, though says that the issue is not a major problem in Kent.

He says: "It really depends on the circumstances and where people are lambing."

"Often ewes give birth to twins, so

Continues on page 20

Continues from page 19

she will be concerned with the second lamb while birthing, leaving the first one vulnerable.

"It is more significant where we're looking at more expansive systems, in upland areas, where losses tend to be higher from fox predation.

"It is also an unfortunate coalescence that lambing often happens when vixens need extra food to feed their young cubs. So, it depends.

"We have been controlling foxes for centuries, and we're not short of them."

Those opposed to the ban say the

“ This is not an issue about class. It is about animal welfare. It is not about town versus country. Many rural people hate hunting ”

Grant Tilman,
East Kent Hunt Saboteurs

figures of sheep or lambs lost “does not constitute a loss of economic significance to the farming community nationally”. It is just one a number of key arguments which have raged for decades.

Another is the case of damage to land caused by hunters on horseback and the pursuing pack of hounds.

Hounds Off is a national group, with a presence in Kent, that offers support to those who have their land used, without permission, by hunts.

Spokesman Joe Hashman: “We are not interested in the moral debate – we support people who are both pro and anti hunting.

“Even if someone is pro-hunting, they will get hacked off that people are trespassing on their property. Some people don't want horses on their property out of principle. Others find their own horses get spooked and their livestock gets damaged, or killed. Pets get killed, pregnant animals can abort.

“There are a lot of anti-hunt farmers, but many of them want to keep their heads down. The farming community is full of great, humble people, but is hard to go against tradition.”

But for some the argument is far more fundamental. That it is a straight fight between traditional rural lifestyles and those who opt for an urban lifestyle. Or, more to the point, the Labour government of the time delivering a blow to a classic pastime of the upper class.

As such, the argument comes laden with class war overtones.

The Countyside Alliance, which speaks out on a whole host of rural issues, was closely aligned to leading the change to protect the right to hunt when the law was changed.

Tim Bonner is a spokesman for the alliance. He has whipped up controversy in the past by comparing what he sees as Westminster's war against hunting as similar to other classic struggles with humanity.

In 2013 he wrote an article saying: “Some people will probably say that imposing a moral judgment through the criminal law in this way is not a problem. It is, however, a problem if you are part of the minority being discriminated against whether you were



CONTENTIOUS: Terriermen with the East Kent Hunt with West Street

homosexual in post-war Britain, black in 1960s America, or Jewish in Nazi Germany. Hunting may be a minor, irrelevant issue compared to the great 20th century battles for human rights, but the principle is the same.”

Nick Onslow is a Kent-based hunt supporter, author and historian, who regularly follows huntsmen on foot. He claims the image of hunting as an upper class pursuit is not true.

What's more, he insists it appeals to a far wider audience than common perception suggests. And that few are on horse back.

He explains: “Lots of people don't realise that more people follows hunts on foot than on horse. It is probably the most inclusive activity I have ever

been involved with,” he says.

“I have followed hunts with cleaners and contessas; every walk of life.”

Hunt saboteur Grant Tilman agrees: “This is not an issue about class, it is about animal welfare. It is also not a town versus country issue – many people from rural backgrounds, including myself, hate hunting.”

Just why this minority pastime engenders such passion in both the anti and pros is a complex and difficult question.

According to Mr Onslow: “I believe there's something very primitive in us all, a desire to belong to something, and a powerful need to be a part of something.

“I can wear my hunt tie and go into a pub in France, and I will find someone I can connect with through this thing we have in common.

“What many people don't realise is how much hunting people love foxes.”

But it is the nature of the fox's death that angers the anti-hunting lobby, despite Mr Bonner's claims there is no evidence that foxes suffer. He said: “The act isn't about stopping the killing of foxes – foxes can still be killed, using various methods including snares, which are worse.”

According to Tonbridge-based animal welfare group Animal Aid: “Every part of a fox hunt is cruel - from the chase, to the dig-out, to the kill. There

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'AGONISING': Animal welfare charities claim hunting kills foxes violently

is no 'quick nip to the back of the neck' in hunting.

"Lead hounds will snap at any part of the running fox, before the pack rip it to pieces. If the fox manages to go to ground, then it will be forced to fight with terriers for hours before being hauled out and, if lucky, shot."

Another contentious issue for those against hunting is the role of terrier-men. Easy to spot at hunts, they usually wear balaclavas, and ride on quadbikes which have metal boxes at the front containing the terriers.

According to huntinact.org - a resource for enforcement professionals: "In traditional fox hunting the hunt would employ one or more terrier-men. "Their role was to stop or block fox

earths and badger setts in the area where the hunting was to take place to prevent foxes from going to ground and the were also responsible for dealing with hunted foxes that had gone to ground.

"These foxes would be located using terriers and then dug out and shot or alternatively the fox would be bolted to be hunted again by hounds."

Currently, hunts routinely claim the terrier-men are there to lay trails.

However, when KoS attended two hunts in east Kent, we witnessed terrier-men with spades at both. At a meet of the East Kent Hunt with West Street, which started near Ashford, one of the terrier-men said he had been hired by the hunt for £20 a day.

'NOT THE VIOLENT ONES' - A SAB'S TALE

I HAVE never understood how someone can take pleasure from an animal's suffering.

I grew up in the countryside, my parents owned a farm. They always hated the hunters for the damage they did to their land - the stuff they do all the time. My parents are not into killing for fun, so I was brought up to know that they are a massive pain in the neck.

There are a lot of myths around hunt sabs - pro-hunts people claim we try and draw hounds onto roads, for example, which isn't true - there's video after video online where you can see sabs trying to help hounds off dual carriageways.

They have also said we spray the animals with acid, which we obviously don't, we use citronella spray which is harmless. You don't spray it onto animals, you spray it to mask the scent of the foxes.

One of the worst things for me, for all sabs, who are mostly vegan, is seeing animals suffering, so when you're putting yourself in a position

where you see people hurting animals, it is difficult. Seeing people deliberately hurt animals is terrible, you have to be a certain type of person to do this, or it will ruin you.

People can destroy themselves when they expose themselves to this cruelty. It takes a good 48 hours to get over a kill. You go home, can hardly talk, you sleep badly.

Hunters also think that we are paid to sab. When you ask them who pays us, they don't have any idea. It's ridiculous - some of them had a conspiracy theory that Linda McCartney was hiring us, which is clearly nonsense. They think that maybe we're like football hooligans out for a day's trouble. But we're not the violent ones. A documentary was made about us around the time of the ban, you see the sabs getting pelted with stones and sticks - the hunters are incredibly violent, especially the terrier-men who are the real sadists.

• **Grant Tilman of the East Kent Hunt Saboteurs**

But surely digging out a fox who has gone to ground, as a concept, is not very sporting?

"I see the terrier-men as separate to the hunt," says hunt supporter Nick Onslow. "They might kill a fox because the farmer has specifically requested it."

For now, the act will stay in place, though opponents claim hunts routinely flout the spirit of the law.

According to Hounds Off's Joe Hashman: "Everyone knows they are stick-

ing two fingers up at the law - if they were just trail hunting, there would be no trespass.

"What's happened is a death of 1,000 cuts. There is an institutional disrespect of anti-hunt owner's property, and the scale is unknown.

"What people tell us is that it is frightening and it's a violation. If you don't want a hunt on your land, why should you have to tolerate it? They are breaking the law, and they have

thousands of acres to do it on."

This allegation is denied by the Countryside Alliance, which tells its members to hunt within the law.

Campaigns chief Tim Bonner says: "This law is nothing to do with fox hunting, it's about prejudice, which comes from the negative stereotypes of fox hunters."

Mr Onslow adds: "There is a commonality in the hunting community that binds us. It is something complex, decent and honourable.

"If there was a government that strengthened the act, we would lose that way of life."

And that sense of community is something which clearly ensures people want to fight for the right to maintain these traditions.

For others, including saboteur Mr Tilman: "Parts of the act need to change. The obscenity that is terrier work needs to go for a start-it's no different from badger baiting or dog fighting.

"The hunts simply need to openly use an artificial drag, carried by a runner, such as the registered Drag Hound packs use-and certainly not train the hounds to follow a fox based scent, 'just in case' of repeal.

"And most importantly, the loophole of 'accidently' killing a fox, when you hunt your pack of hounds through areas where foxes live, and one just 'pops up in front of the hounds' is utterly unacceptable. A clause of 'recklessness' needs to be added-no other law exists where your defence is 'whoops-I made a mistake' every time."

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Weekend of Spitfires, blue sunny

Last Saturday's summer sun saw visitors to two major events near Maidstone enjoying a Battle of Britain 75th anniversary air show at Headcorn and an evening of classical music at Leeds Castle ...

THE unmistakable sound of Merlin engines filled the ears of the families at the Aero Legends 75th Anniversary Battle of Britain Show at Headcorn Aerodrome.

A crowd of some 10,000 enjoyed an afternoon of displays by period aircraft including Tiger Moths, a de Havilland Dragon Rapide and the world's only flying Bristol Blenheim.

Also present to enjoy the day were a number of Battle of Britain veterans. The pilots were also special guests at a ball on Saturday night held in one of the aerodrome's hangars.

The mechanical stars of the day were, however, the Spitfires and Hurricanes that took to skies to perform at various points in the afternoon.

But the undoubted highlight was a truly jaw-dropping finale, that saw the recreation of a Luftwaffe attack on an RAF airfield at the start of the Battle of Britain.

Delighted watchers were treated to the sight and sound of two Messerschmitt 109s first attacking the airfield and then being intercepted by three Spitfires and a Hurricane.

Event organiser Chris Yates, said: "It was a great day and a treat for air enthusiasts and the public alike. For me, the highlight was a moving address by 94-year-old fighter pilot



HEROES: Stars of the day were the Hurricanes and Spitfires that flew in tribute to The Few who fought and won the Battle of Britain

Tommy Wheler DFC OBE. Tommy, who had flown in from Canada to be at the show, at the Hangar Ball.

"His audience sat in awe as he recounted stories from his amazing past, finishing by standing from his wheelchair to give a full salute to three consecutive standing ovations."



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MERLIN: One of the Spitfires fires up its engine as it prepares to thrill the crowds



ATTRACTIONS: The show at Headcorn had plenty of ground-based things to do too

LEEDS CASTLE CLASSICAL CONCERT



FIREWORKS: Leeds Castle's classical concert finished – as usual – in style... with a bang!

LEEDS Castle was a sea of Union Jacks, candelabras, dinner jackets and Hawaiian shorts as thousands of concertgoers enjoyed its classical concert.

And the popular event concluded with its traditional firing cannons and fireworks set to a dramatic classical score.

There was something for everyone too, with swing from The Definitive Rat Pack, a rousing programme from the world famous Royal Philharmonic Orchestra – conducted superbly by John Rigby – and a Viennese waltz dance class by James and Ola Jordan.

At one point, all eyes were to the sky to watch a Spitfire roar overhead above the 900-year-old castle as the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra played Prelude & Fugue Spitfire.

Speaking afterwards, concert event



AUDIENCE: Fans enjoyed a good knight

director Richard Millward said: "The highlight for me was how involved the audience were this year dancing to the Blue Danube Waltz, which was a traditional feature of shows in the past".



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More than 8,000 women step up in fight to beat cancer in Race for Life

Maria Chiorando

Maria.Chiorando@archant.co.uk

TV PRESENTER Carol McGiffin joined thousands of women turning Mote Park pink last weekend, as the latest Race for Life took place in Maidstone.

The hugely popular event is aimed at raising vital funds to fight cancer and celebrate the lives of those who have suffered or died at the disease's cruel hands.

Ms McGiffin, who presents programme Loose Women, teamed up with Marden breast cancer patient Trudi Westthrop to take to the stage as guests of honour at Mote Park of Sunday.

This was the 11th year that Ms McGiffin, who has recently been treated for breast cancer, has taken part in the event. She was joined by her sisters and nieces on the 5km challenge.

She said: "This year, more than ever, it's been really important for me and my family to take part in Race for Life and show cancer that 'hell hath no fury like a woman in pink'."

"It was a real privilege to meet and join forces with so many inspirational women and I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who took part in the 5k, 10k or Pretty Muddy events in Maidstone this weekend."

A massive 5,128 women took part in Pretty Muddy on July 11 and 3,688 women took part in the 5km and 10km events on July 12. Together it is hoped the weekend will raise more than £490,000 to help beat cancer.

Sarah-Jane Winding, Race for Life event manager for Maidstone, said: "I want thank everyone who took part in Race for Life, and their supporters, as well as our heroic volunteers."

"It was a fantastic weekend, full of emotion, courage, tears and laughter as more than 8,000 women joined forces at Mote Park."



PINK: Trudi Westthrop starts this year's Race for Life at Mote Park and (inset and below) Trudi is joined by TV presenter Carol McGiffin on stage

According to organisers, every hour, around five people are diagnosed with cancer in the south east. But cancer survival rates have doubled since the 1970s. Today, more than 95 per cent of men diagnosed with testicular cancer are cured. More women are surviving breast cancer and more children are surviving childhood cancers than ever before.

Nell Barrie, Cancer Research UK's senior science communication manager, said: "We want to see people with every type of cancer, including those that are hard to treat, get the same chances of living a long life. The progress made over the last 40 years shows we are moving in the right direction."

"As advances accelerate, our re-

searchers are already laying the foundations for new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer. These include personalised medicine where patients will have treatment tailored to their cancer, immunotherapy which harnesses the immune system to target the disease, better screening and tests to diagnose cancer earlier, and ways to help prevent the disease in people who are at risk.

"But each year more and more people are diagnosed with cancer, so there's still much more to do. That's why we need everyone who took part in Race for Life in Maidstone to make every step count by supporting our doctors, nurses and scientists so they can take strides forward in the fight against this devastating disease."



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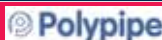
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Putting fresh life into our areas of treasured ancient woodland

Scheme launched to help manage and nurture sustainable areas recruiting a diverse workforce

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AN INNOVATIVE scheme designed to ensure the future of the county's lush and treasured ancient woodland has been launched – harnessing the power of those who traditionally struggle to gain employment.

Run by the Kent Woodland Employment Scheme, or KWES, staff are recruited from the likes of former military personnel, ex-offenders and young people.

They enter a three-year apprenticeship to learn all there is to know about sustainable forestry land.

Julian Ferguson is the man behind the innovative project.

He told us: "The scheme is a new local charity set up to provide training and employment for those who may find things difficult for a while. We work in Kent's ancient woodlands to bring them back into a position where there is sustainable productivity whilst providing fulfilling local employment and training and a new start for those who might otherwise struggle to find employment.

"Kent's beautiful ancient woodlands have existed for many hundreds of years providing timber for construction, fuel, agricultural use as well as charcoal for smelting iron and paper making. These woods were never planted but evolved naturally and their unique habitats cannot be replaced once lost."

Ancient woodlands are defined as being areas which since records began, have always been wooded areas.

The work the teams do and learn can be transferred to just about any other area of the world.

Mr Ferguson said: "The woodland areas are maintained by coppicing, essential to maintain the woodlands biodiversity as it lets light and air onto the woodland floor.

"Trees were grown as a crop, regularly cut



TEAM: The project aims to give training and vital experience to its workers, while also breathing new life into under pressure woodland areas

down to a stump or stool and re-grown to be cut again and again."

And there is a major need for the work as woodland continues to be chopped down for development or for profit.

He said: "Today much ancient woodland is poorly maintained and under threat. The Forestry Commission estimate there are few woodland workers left in the UK so the skills needed to pro-

tect them are also being lost. Our work seeks to redress this shortage."

Those taking part are rewarded with more than just cash.

Mr Ferguson added: "KWES trainees obtain recognised qualifications ensuring at the end of their three-year paid apprenticeship they can secure worthwhile jobs. "Training costs for each apprentice is £60,000 and every four apprentices must be managed by a trained supervisor to comply with safety requirements. "KWES also has significant costs for expensive equipment such as tractors and trailers needed to harvest the wood."

KWES now has 16 apprentices and an additional 12 will be added each year so over the full training period, will have 36 apprentices at any one time.

The director went on: "They will be people who have served their country in the armed forces but face difficulty in the transition to life outside, those who have recently left school but are unable to find work and those who have been involved in crime but wish to make a new start.

"KWES is funded by a combination of charitable donation and funds generated from the woodland products we sell.

"We work with landowners to maintain their ancient woodland in exchange for permission to sell the wood we coppice to raise funds for KWES. In this way we maintain Kent's ancient woodlands biodiversity and preserve an amenity that local people can enjoy for generations to come."

Kent has some pretty special woodland, according to the organisers, so maintaining and establishing new growth is vital.

Mr Ferguson said: "Kent is one of the most densely wooded counties and home to some of the UK's most ancient woodland.

"Many coppice stools in our ancient woodland are hundreds of years old."

The Kent Biodiversity Partnership is only too well aware of the size of the job.



GROWTH: Kent's precious woodland

It said: "There are over 46,000 hectares of woodland in Kent, including mixed and coniferous woodland. Of this some 85 per cent is native, broad leaved woodland, and 53 per cent is ancient semi natural woodland. The main wooded areas are found in the High Weald, the Kent Downs and in the Blean area."

And it added: "Woodlands can include a range of important 'micro' habitats, including ponds, streams and open spaces. There are therefore many opportunities to improve the biodiversity of these diverse woodlands. Management of woodland also creates a diversity of habitats."

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Seaside town set to PLAY its part in becoming video games hub

After Geek, Margate is opening its arms for another retro gaming event, as **Chris Murphy** discovers...

MARGATE is establishing itself as a popular venue for major video games events, as another major player on the national scene confirms it will be heading to the seaside town this summer.

The resort is already host to the hugely popular Geek (Gaming Expo East Kent) which takes place during the half-term holiday in February.

But now the summer months will see PLAY Margate arrive in August at the same venue – the Winter Gardens – focusing purely on the delights of retro gaming.

Visitors can expect classic consoles and arcade machines in what is likely to be a hugely popular event for youngsters during the school summer holidays.

In addition, there will be a special zone dedicated to blocky building phenomenon Minecraft and a host of pinball machines.

It is being organised by Replay Events which already hosts two ma-

“We want to keep the momentum going for gaming in the area after Geek and bring people down to Margate constantly for that purpose...”

Kyle Fisher,
Margate Winter Gardens

for video game shows in Manchester.

This will be the first time it has visited Kent.

Andy Brown is director of the firm, which he has run with two colleagues for around five years.

He told us: “We hope this will be an annual event. We have a capacity of 1,200 per day, and hope to fill the hall.

“We were approached by the venue asking us to run this event, and I checked with the people at Geek to make sure they were okay with it, and they are.

“Ours will be a different type of event, with the emphasis on people being able to play a lot of the old retro games.

“We have worked with Geek for the first few years, and are certainly not trying to take away anything from what they did. We have been completely transparent with them about this show. As far as I am concerned, I still have a working relationship with Geek.

“The two events can feed each other, and if Margate suddenly becomes a hotspot for gaming events then that would be great.

“I do think the two events will complement each other and can only be good for Margate.”



RANGE: In addition to classic games consoles there will also be arcade machines featuring games throughout the years



CLASSICS: Famous characters including Mario will be available to play

Kyle Fisher from Your Leisure, which runs the Winter Gardens, added: “People really wanted the retro video gaming which there wasn’t so much focus on at Geek.

“Basically, this is a stop-gap in between. We want to keep the momentum going for gaming in the area and bring people down to Margate constantly for that purpose.

“Some of the people who work with Geek are working with us on this.”

The venue will be like a vast amusement arcade, hopefully with wall-to-wall retro gaming consoles that will be free to play once visitors have paid the entrance fee. It will be staged between August 21-23.

Mr Fisher said there will be no speeches or talks, adding: “It won’t have that conference feel to it. Just get in there and play.

“There will be a lot of machines,

along with tournaments, Cosplay, and some merchandise stands.

“There will be rows and rows of gaming and some special events taking place, which we can’t reveal anything about just yet.”

As well as the ‘standard’ old school machines, from the likes of Sega, Nintendo, Atari, Playstation, Commodore, Spectrum, Xbox, Amstrad, Neo Geo, there will be some rarer or more unusual consoles available for hands-on play.

Gamers on the PC are not left out – the Replay LAN will feature classic networked games from first person shooters, real time strategy and driving genres.

Some of the classic console titles will include Outrun, Pacman, Donkey Kong, Street Fighter, Space Invaders and Space Harrier.

Anyone considering themselves



CROWDS: Organisers expect sell-out crowds for the three-day event

something of a hot shot in gaming can get the chance to put their money where their mouth is, as there will be one of the qualifying heats of the UK Classic Gaming Championships.

The organisers are also promising some great prizes in the local tournaments which will be free to enter.

Kate Kneale is the organiser of the well-established Geek and is looking forward to PLAY joining the games event line-up in the town.

She told us: “Beneath the fun and games at Geek there are some big dreams for the local area – this obviously makes it a different beast from the event planned for the Winter Gardens this summer.

“Geek has been developed here in Margate and we have worked hard to build a new, exciting family event with strong links to local schools, colleges and arts organisations.

“It’s about the history of play and games... about looking forward. New jobs, new skills, new talents nurtured.

“At the moment we are talking to Dreamland about our long term plans.

“In the meantime, we are continuing to develop exciting playful events for Margate – don’t miss our Tribes Game playable across Margate during the upcoming summer festival.

“I wish Replay Events luck with their event I am sure it will be a good addition to the busy summer season already planned for Margate.”

■ PLAY Margate runs from August 21-23 at the Margate Winter Gardens. Tickets cost £12.50 for adults and £7.50 for children. Under 5s go free. Weekend passes are also available.

Tickets are on sale now.



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'Crisis' with our children's teeth prompts call to cut sugar intake

Figures obtained by KoS reveal a sharp increase in the number of children suffering from tooth decay across the county. **Molly Kersey** reports.

SUGARY diets and poor habits in brushing teeth have prompted dentists in Kent to issue a warning to parents to keep a close eye on the state of their children's teeth.

The warning comes after a rise in the number of children who have been taken to hospital to have milk teeth removed under general anaesthetic. This is often the result of the tooth being damaged beyond repair due to decay.

And it comes in the week that a report from the Royal College of Surgeons showed a 14 per cent rise in the number of children and young people being admitted to hospital last year since 2010-11, with a warning we were edging towards a tooth health 'crisis'.

Nicolaas Louw, a dentist who practises in east Kent, said: "Tooth extractions for young children are usually the result of decay that has gone beyond the point where the tooth can be successfully filled."

After the enamel on the teeth has been softened it can create a cavity on the surface, which means that plaque and bacteria can make their way in and reach the dentine - speeding up the process of tooth decay.

"Once the decay has developed to that stage it becomes a problem and it can cause repetitive infections and pain," added Mr Louw.

Kenneth Eaton, an honorary professor in primary dental care at the University of Kent,

added: "This happened to over 25,000 children last year.

"It is very unfortunate as there is a small health risk with general anaesthetic and often the children have been in a lot of pain before the teeth are extracted."

In severe cases some children may even have to have all of their milk teeth removed.

However, Mr Louw says this certainly should not be common.

"That should be rare, but if all the teeth need to be extracted due to decay I would say its gross negligence.

"I can't say who is responsible - probably everyone who is looking after and involved with the child," he said.

At the William Harvey Hospital, Ashford, the number of children having teeth extracted has also seen a significant rise - from 520 in 2010-11 to 897 in 2014-15, according to figures obtained from a Freedom of Information Act by KoS.

However, at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, the figure actually saw a reduction, with the figure going from 179 to 98.

At Medway Maritime Hospital 18 children were admitted in 2010-11 and 13 were admitted in 2014-15.

Dentists say that a bad diet and sugary, fizzy drinks have a part to play in the problem.

Brett Duane is a consultant in public health



DECAY: Sugary drinks can be harmful and very damaging to teeth

at training board NHS Health Education Kent, Surrey and Sussex (KESS).

He said: "A rise, particularly in an older age group – from 11 to 17 – that is a concern.

There are so many reasons we should be restricting the amount of sugar children consume. When bacteria in the mouth is breaking sugar down they produce acid as part of that process. That causes the enamel to be lost from the tooth."

Mr Louw agreed. "Research has show that beyond a doubt," he added.

"Drink has sugar in liquid form so it is immediately able to become acidic in the mouth.

"I have a background where I came from Africa – I grew up there and was a dentist there for 18 years – and I have seen African children with very good teeth, but the moment they get into contact with Western culture and shops with little sweets and so on, it has a devastating effect on their teeth.

"Even though they didn't have much hygiene in the way of brushing, their teeth used to be good."

Professor Eaton explained: "The first teeth erupt into the mouth at around four months of age and by about the age of two-and-a-half years most children have got all their baby – primary – teeth.

"If they are erupting into a sugar invasion then the problems will start. Sugar is a terrible thing.

"The fortunate thing is that you do get a second set of teeth, which start erupting into the mouth around six years of age, and if the environment of the mouth has been salvaged then you get a second chance."

Sugary drinks have come under fire recently – with the British Medical Association demanding a 20 per cent tax on fizzy, sugary drinks to help improve health and fight the country's obesity epidemic.

So would taxing them help children's teeth in the process? Professor Eaton said: "Putting a high tax on sugar products is one thing, but you have got to make healthy food more available for families on a lower income.

"Sugar is addictive – there is no doubt about it and it does give you instant energy. It's a big problem changing people's habits.

"Persuading the government to put the tax on sugar would be a very good thing – not

only because of tooth decay but also obesity and diabetes, but the sugar lobbyists are quite powerful."

However, Mr Louw isn't so sure that it would solve the problem.

He said: "If you tax things to test whether people are going to stop buying it they will probably look for alternatives.

"I think its education and knowledge of what you are doing that is very important, not only for the teeth but for general health also."

So what do parents and children need to know in order to protect their teeth and prevent tooth decay?

"The very simple message is lessen your sugar intake and frequency of intake," explained Professor Eaton.

"Know where there may be hidden sugars. Lots of parents are thinking 'it's very good to give children the fruit juices, because they are rich in vitamin C and will do them good, but it would actually be much better for them to have fresh fruit and vegetables rather than something processed. I think many parents are not aware of hidden sugars in fruit and drinks, and even in things like white bread and baked beans."

And he offered some advice to help.

He added: "For drinks between meals give them sugar-free drinks, often just boring old water.

"Nibbling sugary food between meals – grazing – is very bad for you teeth and for your waistline. If you must eat sweets have them all in one go, don't graze.

"Restrict sugar intake to meal times and use a fluoride toothpaste.

"When you have something to eat that has got sugar in, within half an hour the bacteria in your mouth have produced acid from that sugar and that acid starts to attack the enamel of the tooth.

"Fluoride toothpaste will strengthen the enamel. The brushing is really important for both children and adults – make sure to do it between the teeth and in the gum crevices."

And he said parents should take their children to visit the dentist regularly.

"When you as a parent go to the dentist take your children along at the earliest possible age rather than waiting until they are about four or five," he said.

Mr Louw added: "I always advise parents to bring their children when they have most of

“I think many parents are not aware of hidden sugars in fruit and drinks, and even in things like white bread and baked beans...”

Kenneth Eaton,
Honorary professor in dental care



their baby teeth at the age of around two to two and a half years old. But sometimes there are little problems that parents want to get advice on – maybe they think there is abnormal eruption of baby teeth, and they are welcome to bring them sooner.

"Their first experience should be positive – usually that helps a lot."

And work is currently being done to find out the best way to raise awareness and help people in the county.

A spokesperson from Kent County Council said: "Dental care services are the responsibility of NHS England; the responsibility for dental health promotion was moved to upper tier local authorities as part of the Health and Social Care Act."

He added: "Kent County Council's public health department is currently undertaking an assessment to understand the dental health promotion needs of the Kent population using surveys by Public Health England alongside mapping of current dental health promotion activity and dental outcomes.

"An examination of the evidence of what works in terms of best practice and interventions to improve dental and oral health is part of that assessment.

"Improving oral and dental health outcomes continues to be important for Kent as it is nationally."

PAINFUL: Children may have to have teeth extracted as a result of decay.

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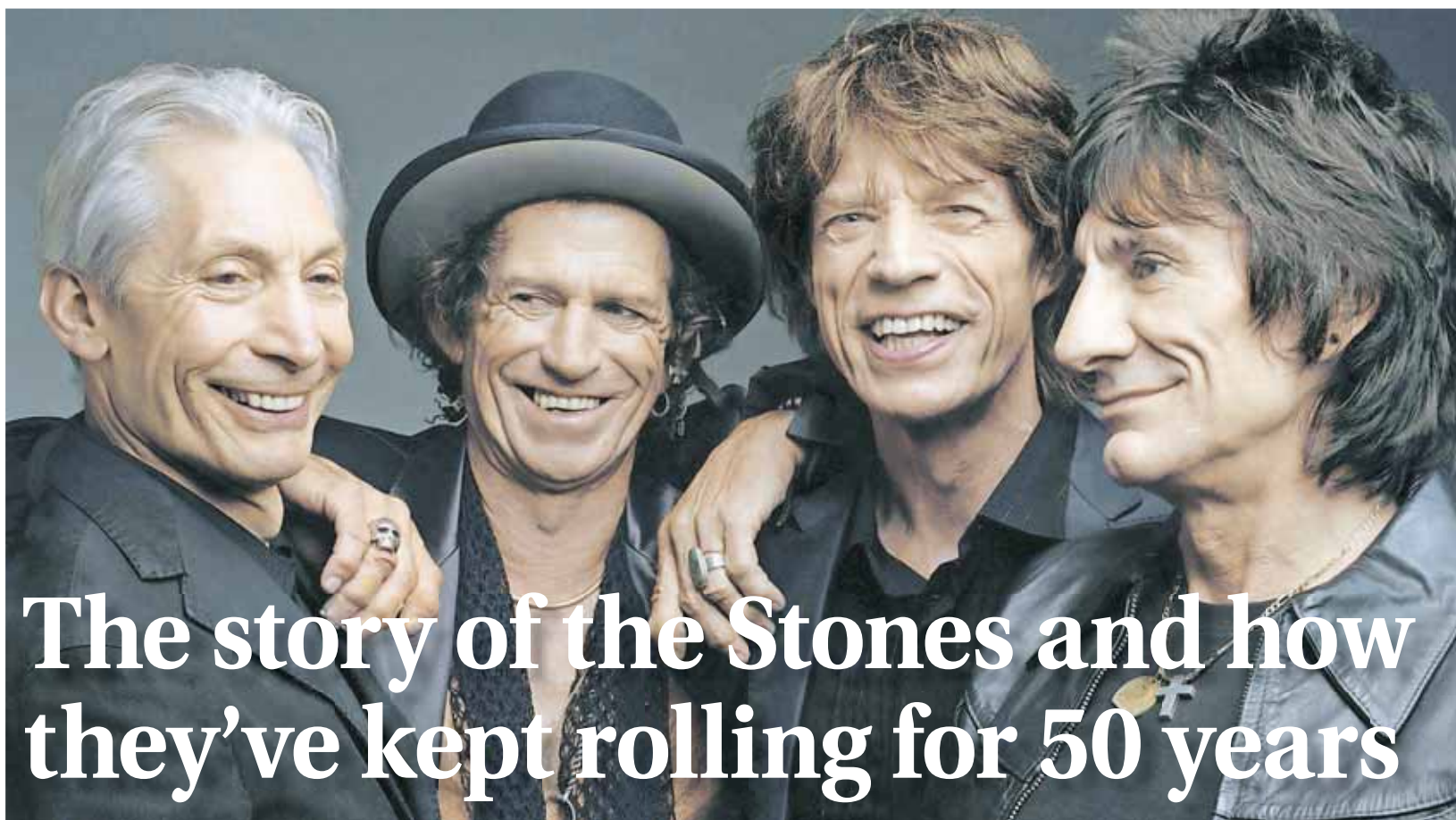
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'Exhibitionism' will put behind-the-scenes history of North Kent rockers on show like never before...

THEY have performed in front of millions worldwide – and just two years ago played to two sell-out 65,000 capacity crowds at London's Hyde Park.

And now Dartford rockers the Rolling Stones are set to pull in more big crowds but this time with their first major international exhibition.

Exhibitionism will run at the Saatchi Gallery in London between April and September next year, featuring more than 500 artefacts charting their remarkable career. Tickets went on sale last Friday and all already selling fast.

The genesis of the band occurred on Dartford railway station when Mick Jagger met Keith Richards as schoolboys back in 1961. They would then both join Brian Jones' band which would become the Stones.

The organisers say the show will be the most comprehensive and immersive insight into a group described by critics as 'The Greatest Rock 'n' Roll Band', taking over nine themed galleries on two entire floors at the popular contemporary art gallery.

The 500 items include "important and unseen artefacts from the band's personal archives".

It will be a potted history of their epic climb through the ranks to become one of the music greats.

The organisers said: "Exhibitionism embraces all aspects of art and design, film, video, fashion, performance, and rare sound archives. At the heart of the exhibition is of course the Stones musical heritage that took the group from being a hard working London blues band in the early 1960s to becoming inspirational cultural icons adored by millions."



ROCKERS: The Rolling Stones' exhibition boasts 500 items from the band's personal archives

They added the show will be touring 11 cities over four years.

A spokesman continued: "Over five decades the Stones have shaped popular culture, often in their own image, and this exhibition will look back through every facet of the band's career to offer a unique perspective that only the band's own archive can provide."

It will be the largest interactive touring experience of its kind ever to be staged by a band or artist.

It has taken three years to put it all together, and the organisers say such meticulous planning means it offers

the most comprehensive insight into the band in a way that has never before been attempted.

There are original stage designs, dressing room and backstage paraphernalia.

For the fans of the actual music, there are rare guitars and instruments, iconic costumes, rare audio tracks and unseen video clips.

Even personal diaries and correspondence are laid bare, along with original poster and album cover artwork, and unique cinematic presentations.

Mick Jagger, who went to Dartford

Grammar School, said: "We've been thinking about this for quite a long time but we wanted it to be just right and on a large scale."

"The process has been like planning our touring concert productions and I think that right now it's an interesting time to do it."

And Keith Richards, who went to Dartford Technical School, added: "While this is about the Rolling Stones, it's not necessarily only just about the members of the band."

"It's also about all the paraphernalia and technology associated with a group like us, and it's this, as well as



ICONIC: For more than 50 years the Stones have mixed art and rock

the instruments that have passed through our hands over the years, that should make the exhibition really interesting."

Drummer Charlie Watts added: "It's hard to believe that it's more than 50 years since we began and it is wonderful to look back to the start of our careers and bring everything up to date at this exhibition."

The immersive exhibition spans nine rooms totalling over 1,750 square meters, each with its own distinctly designed environment, that will show how the band has changed the music industry.

It's not only the 'solo' work that is marked – collaborations too with the likes of Andy Warhol, Shepard Fairey, Alexander McQueen, and Ossie Clark to Tom Stoppard and Martin Scorsese.

■ Tickets are from www.stonexhibitionism.com or from the gallery too, prices from £10 per student on school trips, to £55 for a weekend family pass.

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COMEDY: The satirical show was first performed in 1895, and it has been revived numerous times. Credit: Tristram Kenton

Nigel Havers stars in 'farcical comedy for serious people'

The actor will be performing in an Oscar Wilde classic, writes **Molly Kersey**

STAR of popular historical drama *Downton Abbey*, Nigel Havers, will be taking to the stage and performing in one of Oscar Wilde's classic plays.

Mr Havers will be starring in the much-loved and witty masterpiece *The Importance of Being Earnest* – dubbed by Wilde as 'a trivial comedy for serious people'.

The farcical comedy was first performed in 1895, and it presented a satirical view of Victorian ways.

The show has been adapted for the cinema a number of times and has frequently been revived on stage since its premiere.

It recently enjoyed a run at the West End – where it played to packed houses.

The Bunbury Company of Players' production lampoons and exposes the hypocrisies of Victorian

society and tells the story of two bachelors – dependable John Worthing and upper class playboy Algernon Moncrieff.

Both men feel compelled to take on different identities in order to pursue two eligible ladies – Cecily Cardew and Gwendolyn Fairfax.

Comedic misadventures and brushes with the redoubtable Lady Bracknell and Miss Prism result from their subterfuge.

Mr Havers will be reprising the role of Algernon Moncrieff, which he previously took on during the West End performances.

And he said that he is looking forward to being back on stage.

Mr Havers explained: "This production is very close to my heart and we had a ball doing it in the West End last summer.

"I'm thrilled we get to do it all again and hope audiences in Dart-

ford will laugh and enjoy watching our twist on Oscar's brilliant play as much as we enjoy performing it."

The play will be performed at The Orchard Theatre, Dartford, from September 22 to 26 as part of its regional tour.

The Importance of Being Earnest is directed by the acclaimed Lucy Bailey who, along with comic novelist Simon Brett and theatre designer William Dudley, has aimed to create a new context for the play.

The production will feature stars including Mr Havers, whose TV credits include shows such as *Coronation Street* and *Downton Abbey* – where he took on the role of Lord Hepworth, and Rosalind Ayres – who is well known for her role in the 1997 film *Titanic*.

Martin Jarvis and Christine Kavanagh will also be starring in the production.

The Importance of Being Earnest is being produced by Rupert Gavin for Incidental Colman.

Mr Gavin said: "I am absolutely delighted that in our 34th year as a producing company with a long tradition in comedy, we are reprising our celebratory milestone 100th production – warmly received in the West End – with a UK wide tour of that landmark comedy in the English language, *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

"For this, we have drawn together an exceptional creative team, a group of brilliant comedic actors and we bring of course, a twist to proceedings that you would only expect of us."

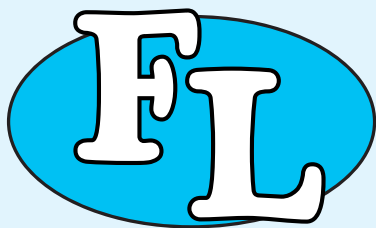
For more information about the show, or to book tickets, you can visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.

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Musical jazz legend set to take to the stage in Tunbridge Wells

by Molly Kersey

molly.kersey@archant.co.uk

THE legendary jazz trumpeter and singer Leroy Jones will be taking to the stage in Tunbridge Wells with the Leroy Jones Quintet.

They will be performing at the Assembly Hall Theatre on November 5.

The show forms part of his first major UK tour, which will see him play 15 dates at various locations across the country.

He will be joined on stage by a number of successful British jazz musicians during the course of the tour – including singer Ian Shaw and Joe Stilgoe.

His quintet is formed of Katja Toivola on the trombone, David Archer on guitar, Pedro Segundo on percussion, Fergus Ireland on double bass and Lizzie Ball, violinist and vocalist leader of Nigel Kennedy's Orchestra of Life.

Mr Jones has released a series of CDs including Props for Pops – his tribute to Louis Armstrong, Back to My Roots, Soft Shoe and Sweeter Than A Summer Breeze.

As well as this, he has appeared

on numerous recordings with artists such as Dr John, the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, Anders Osborne, Chuck Carbo, Spirit of New Orleans, John Boutté, Lillian Boutté and Paul Sanchez.

Speaking about the new show, Mr Jones explained: "The Leroy Jones Quintet sound sums up all those great experiences and influences and gives me a chance each night to make sure that the great music of New Orleans is performed authentically and with great respect for the artists who came before me."

"Not in an old-fashioned way, but with a modern swing that comes from my love of bebop and other forms of modern jazz."

A typical set list for the Leroy Jones Quintet includes traditional numbers such as Bourbon Street Parade, Sleepy Time Down South, Basin Street Blues, Dinah and When My Dreamboat Comes Home.

The performance will be starting at 8pm.

Tickets to the show are £21.90.

For more information, or to book tickets, you can visit the theatre's website at www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.

Alternatively you can call the box office on 01892 530613,



LEGENDARY: Leroy Jones will be performing.

Best paw forward at show

THE Tonbridge Dog Show will be taking place at the Tonbridge Racecourse Showground on July 26.

It costs £1.50 per class to enter a dog at the show and registration starts at 10am.



Basil Brush hits the stage

THE Basil Brush Show will be performed at the Theatre Royal Margate on August 22.

Basil will be joined on stage by Chris Pizzey, also known as Mr Stephen – his chum from BBC's The Basil Brush Show.

Performances will be at 11.30am and 2pm.

Call 01843 292795 to book.

Classic production relived

THE Royal Shakespeare Company's production of A Midsummer Night's Dream will be at the Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury, from April 19 to 23 2016.

For tickets, call 01227 787787.



Show features film music

KENT County Youth Orchestra will be teaming up with one of the world's leading saxophonists, John Harle, in a new concert featuring a host of music written for films, at the Margate Winter Gardens.

The performance takes place on August 29 at 7.30pm. Call 0333 666 3366 to book.




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Show gets inside your head

BEGUILING show A Journey Round My Skull will be performed at the Theatre Royal Margate on November 19. The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets are £10. To book, call 01843 292795.



The tales of Peter Rabbit

THE Tales of Peter Rabbit and Benjamin Bunny will be performed at an outdoor theatre event at Emmetts Garden, Sevenoaks. The performance will take place from 4.30pm to 8pm on July 31. Booking is essential and can be done by calling 0844 249 1895.

Hits of Motown legends

ON August 1, Mowtown's Greatest Hits will be making its way to the Orchard Theatre, Dartford, featuring hits from legends such as Marvin Gaye and Lionel Richie. To book, call 01322 220000.



Unique spin on a classic

A UNIQUE spin on Shakespeare's well-loved tale Much Ado About Nothing will be performed at Smallhythe Place on August 23. The performance will run from 7pm to 9pm, with tickets costing £15 for adults and £8 for children. Booking is essential, call 0844 249 1895.

Country stars to take Folkestone by storm

By Molly Kersey
molly.kersey@archant.co.uk

COUNTRY music duo The Shires will be performing in the county later this year. Singer and songwriters Ben Earle and Crissie Rhodes will be taking to the stage at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, on October 8.

The duo hail from the neighbouring counties of Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

They formed in 2013 after meeting on the social media site Facebook, and have enjoyed a rise to fame since then.

They became the first British country band to reach the top 10 in the official UK album chart with their debut album Brave.

They also performed to sold-out crowds when they took to the stage on their first headline tour earlier this year, and took part in the Country to Country (C2C) festival at the O2 Arena, Greenwich.

Their songs include Nashville Grey Skies, Friday Night, State Lines, Only Midnight and I Just



Wanna Love You.

A spokesman said: "With their hearts in the home counties and their heads in Nashville, USA, The Shires combine the best of both musical worlds."

The Shires are signed to the revived Decca Nashville label.

Originally launched some 80 years ago, Decca Nashville became home to a host of country stars including Patsy Cline, who was part of the early 1960s Nashville sound with hits including Crazy and I Fall To Pieces, and Loretta Lynn, who was then known as the

'Decca Doll'.

From the 1950s, Decca Nashville was one of the leading labels in the US for country music, and it was also the label for star Dolly Parton between 1997 and 1998.

The performance will be starting at 7pm.

Tickets are on sale now and prices start at £15.

For more information about the show, or to book tickets, you can visit www.atgtickets.com/folkestone.

Alternatively you can call the box office on 0844 871 3015.



SUCCESS: They have performed to sold-out crowds.



DEBUT: They reached the top 10 with their album Brave.

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HOBBIES
Of Dover

Hard to make pig's ear of pork barbeque classic

TV chef Tom Kerridge says pulled pork is easy to recreate at home and good for busy families too...

AFFORDABLE, tasty and versatile, it's no wonder our appetite for pulled pork shows no sign of waning.

Everywhere you look, from fast-food chains and high-street favourites, all the way up to high-end restaurants, it seems some version of the American barbecue classic will be on the menu. While our craving for this flaky delight is evidently well catered for out and about, affable TV chef Tom Kerridge thinks it's a doddle to recreate at home too.

Cooked over a low temperature for a long time, there's limited faff required, and the slow cook time means you can get away with using a cheap cut of meat like pork shoulder.

"A dish like pulled pork really could be the answer for busy families who still want to enjoy a Sunday meal together," says Wiltshire-born Mr Kerridge, who is behind Love Pork's new pulled pork campaign.

"All you need to do is apply a rub to the pork, stick it in the oven and then go enjoy your Sunday, while the oven does all the hard work. It's much less fiddly than a roast, and pulling it apart with two forks at the end is easier than carving."

To put Kerridge's claim to the test, I assemble my ingredients and in a moment of misplaced confidence, invite two of my committed carnivore friends round for lunch, to help me and my husband, a lapsed vegetarian, chow our way through a big juicy



CAMPAIGN: Mr Kerridge is behind Love Pork's new campaign.

batch. With a sizeable six-hour cook time ahead, I heave the meat, which I marinated overnight, into a casserole dish and bung it into the oven - and then leave for a morning yoga class, slightly fearful that my house might burn down while I'm gone.

When I open the front door an hour-and-a-half later, a welcoming porky aroma greets me, suggesting the meat is bubbling along nicely.

With so few steps involved in making pulled pork though, I can't help worrying that I've left something crucial out of the process, and compensate by making a complicated homemade coleslaw, potato salads and slicing a ridiculous number of bread rolls. After a single check at the four-hour mark, I resist urges to peak

again until it's cooked for six hours, and then take the pork out of the oven. Carving is one of my least favourite meat-based tasks, so I enjoy the process of shredding the shoulder to smithereens with two forks. Simply speaking, you can't make a pig's ear out of a dish which is supposed to look as 'undone' as pulled pork is.

To serve, we leave the juicy shreds in the casserole dish and then load up our buns, adding mounds of coleslaw and washing it all down with plenty of cold beer for good measure - and in case it's inedible.

To my surprise, it's not inedible - it's actually pretty good. Easy to pull off, no pun intended, affordable and crowd-pleasing, I'd definitely plump for pulled pork again.

Exploring ice creams

FAMILY show I'll Keep Waiting on the Pavement for the Ice Cream Van to Come will be performed at the Folkestone Quarterhouse next month.

The show charts the rise and fall of the ice cream van and our relationship with what it means to be British.

The performance will be taking place on August 16 at 12pm.

For tickets, call 01303 760750.

Shakespeare on stage

SHAKESPEARE'S first play, The Two Gentlemen of Verona, will be performed at Whatman Park, Maidstone.

The comedy follows the adventures of best friends Valentine and Proteus, who find themselves torn between male friendship and romance.

The show will take place on August 8 at 7.30pm. For more details, you can visit www.parkwoodtheatres.co.uk.

Relive Pink Floyd fun

TRIBUTE act Think Floyd will be taking to the stage at the Central Theatre, Chatham.

The brand new production is celebrating the 40th anniversary of Wish You Were Here, and will feature a full performance of the iconic album.

They will be performing on November 21. For more information, or to book, call 01634 338338.

Swashbuckling story

THE Pantaloons will be bringing their swashbuckling rendition of classic tale Treasure Island to Sissinghurst Castle Garden.

The outdoor theatre experience is suitable for all ages and will be taking place on Friday (July 24) from 7pm to 9pm.

Tickets are £15 for adults and £8 for children and booking is essential. Call 0844 249 1895 to book.

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Whitstable Oyster Festival 2015:

JULY 23 – AUGUST 2

Join in the family fun down by the seaside at the oyster festival

Whitstable's popularity peaks next week as its stages more than a week of special events on the coast

BILLED as the ultimate 'staycation' holiday event of the year, this year's Whitstable Oyster Festival returns next week promising to be bigger and better than before.

Already established as one of the county's foremost summer events, the seaside celebrations start on Thursday - and really get into gear next weekend, when tens of thousands of people from across the south east are set to descend.

There's everything from free open air cinema screenings of the likes of the Sound of Music and Grease on Tankerton Slopes, a food fair at the harbour, street parades, street theatre, a tug-of-war in the mud, oyster eating competition, kite-making workshops and plenty more besides.

And a trip to Whitstable isn't complete without casting your bait with a bit of crabbing at the water's edge or building a 'grotter' - created from oyster shells and which, at night, are lit to illuminate the seafloor.

What's more, this year marks two significant additions to the ever-popular events which take place across the town.

In order to allow even more families to come and enjoy the fun, organisers are unveiling The Oyster Bed - a family campsite within walking distance of the town centre, allowing visitors a place to stay while they take advantage of the shows, arts and crafts on display.

A camping berth for two people costs just £25 per night.

In addition, there is The Shuck - a showcase restaurant, bar and performance venue which will include live music from the likes of the Cuban Brothers, comedy from Marcus Brigstocke and a special funk DJ set from Craig Charles. Be quick, though, tickets to all the main events are selling fast.

As you can imagine, traffic will be



OYSTER ORIGINS



CHANCES are, if you swallow a delicious fresh oyster during the festival weekend, it may not be the variety which has made the town so famous.

Because while the rock oysters will be in abundance and on sale across the town, it is the flatter, native oyster which are farmed off the coast which made Whitstable's reputation.

Courtesy of the shallow warm water from the Thames Estuary, the natives flourished since Roman times, becoming a speciality. Today they are both more expensive and more prized. In addition, they are only fished during the winter months - from September through to April.

The festival itself began in Norman times - a chance for the fisherman to conduct a thanksgiving for the bounty of the sea. It is a tradition which continues today, with oysters being blessed on the beach.

So why hold such a festival when the native oysters are not in season? The answer is simple. Traditionally the festival was staged during the quiet period for the fishermen. Hence it being staged in July.



POPULAR: From parades through the town centre, to stalls at the harbour, there's something for everyone.

busy getting in and out of the town - especially next weekend.

Motorists heading to Whitstable are advised to follow the signs directing them to special park and ride sites set up for the event and to book tickets in advance to reserve their place.

Tickets bought in advance for a car

and up to 11 passengers costs £7.50 or £10 on the gate. Buses run into the town centre from 8am to midnight across the weekend.

There is extremely limited parking in the town centre - with the town's biggest car park still half closed due to structural problems - and motorists are urged to avoid travelling through

the town to reach the park and ride venues.

Where possible, visitors are urged to use public transport - with the train station within easy walking distance of the harbour.

For full details of all the events at the festival, visit the official website at www.whitstableoysterfestival.co.uk.

EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY...



OVER recent years Whitstable has developed an enviable reputation for its food and drink - so why not indulge during festival week.

Not only does the town boast a wide range of excellent quality restaurants - offering everything from lobster on the beach, to Moroccan, Mediterranean, French, and contemporary British, there is

a little something for everyone.

And that's before you consider the Thai, Indian and Italian diners.

If that doesn't float your boat - or your budget doesn't quite stretch so far - then there's always the seaside classic of fish and chips to whet the appetite.

To wash it all down, why not enjoy a relaxing cool drink on the

beach? There are plenty of pubs, including a number of micro-pubs, and plenty of other places to grab a cool beer or chilled glass of wine.

But no trip to Whitstable would be complete without some delicious seafood - freshly caught by the fishermen at the harbour.

Plus you can taste the oysters which made the town famous.

Fishing for adventure in Sweden

TRAVEL REVIEW: Fjällbacka

by Sarah Marshall

FINDING inspiration to write a postcard home from small Swedish fishing village Fjällbacka isn't difficult. Anyone lost for ideas need only glance at the elaborate, adjective-laden travel scripts pinned outside globally-themed rooms in the boutique Stora Hotellet Bryggan hotel.

Each letter was supposedly written by fictional character Captain Klasen, regaling tales of his adventures around the world. Given the breadth of his voyages - from Indonesia to Africa and the Americas - it's somehow ironic that his words should wind up in a sleepy seaside town barely acknowledged on a world map.

But when hotel manager Susanne Maxvall invented the character, she was clearly tapping into a sense of nautical adventure that drenches Fjällbacka like the spray from the refreshing North Sea.

Set along a coastline of rough-hewn bluffs with an archipelago of 8,000 islands and skerries, Fjällbacka is the star attraction in the scenic Bohuslän region. An easy 1.5-hour drive from Sweden's second city Gothenburg, it's a favourite weekend haunt for nature-starved urbanites and also attracts tourists on a city and surf two-centre trip.

I've come here for an alternative seaside break, where fish 'n' chip shops take the form of seafood safaris and the only sticks of rock I'll encounter are towering cairns atop the town's dominating Vetteberget mountain. Passing rows of classic clapboard houses, and buildings decorated with intricate designs known as 'carpenter's joy', I head to the harbour.

Along with seven other tourists, I join fisherman Ingemar Granquist on



ALTERNATIVE: The seaside village is a favourite weekend haunt.

a boat trip to look for langoustines, a speciality in this region. Visitors can join seafood safaris throughout the year, although the delicacies on offer differ depending on the season. Langoustines can be fished from spring through to autumn, while the lobster season starts at the end of September.

Shellfish in this part of the world are exceptional. Ingemar, who ditched his office job to become a fisherman in

1990, has supplied langoustines to Saudi Arabian princes and some of his catch was even served at last year's Nobel Prize Award Ceremony. Cold water caused by the Gulf Stream means seafood grows more slowly in this part of the world, enhancing the flavour. But it's not just the thought of fresh catch which grabs my imagination; being out on the water is the best way to enjoy West Sweden's coastline, drifting past lone lighthouses and iso-

lated islets, arousing a childhood desire to scramble ashore, hoist up a flag and claim them as your own.

It's a good job there are plenty of alternative distractions, because our attempts to locate langoustines are largely unsuccessful. As we peer eagerly over the side of the boat, drizzled by a mist of salty water, Ingemar hauls in several empty rope and metal pots with only the odd crab as prize booty. There are strict regulations governing

TRAVEL FACTS

SARAH Marshall was a guest of the West Sweden and Visit Gothenburg tourist boards.

The Crayfish Safari with City Pulse package costs 3,200 sek - £244 per person - and includes one night at Gothia Towers in Gothenburg and one night at Stora Hotellet Bryggan in Fjällbacka, both with breakfast. Flights and car hire extra. Visit www.vastsverige.com.

fishing in the area, and Ingemar carefully casts back the few female langoustines we find in order to stick by sustainable practices. Along with the 10 professional fishermen who operate in this region, residents are also permitted 14 pots per household. Lobsters in particular are carefully monitored by marine police, although Ingemar hints that sometimes foul play is afoot.

It almost sounds like a case for best-selling crime novelist Camilla Läckberg, whose stories set in Fjällbacka have caused a surge of interest in the town. Every Friday and Saturday at 5pm, 45-minute walking tours (in English) guide tourists around the highlight locations featured in Camilla's books. A macabre highlight is the local graveyard, which provides the opening scene for three of her novels - although the church warden has since asked Camilla to stop including the spot, as residents are now reluctant to be buried there.

In the summer twilight, there's nothing remotely dark or murderous about Fjällbacka, but in winter when the population shrinks and charcoal-grey clouds grow thicker, I imagine it could easily provide fodder for a Scandi noir thriller.

Film Reviews by Damon Smith



ANT-MAN
(12A, 117 mins) Action/Adventure/Sci-Fi/Comedy/Romance.

THE latest franchise in the cluttered Marvel Comic universe is refreshingly modest compared to the computer-generated bombast of The Avengers.

Peyton Reed's boisterous action

adventure is anchored by a winning lead performance from Paul Rudd. He plays cat burglar Scott, who is released from San Quentin Penitentiary and resolves to go straight for the sake of his daughter. Desperate to pay child support, he agrees to one lucrative heist. Unfortunately, the robbery lands him in a police cell. Inventor Hank Pym offers Scott a way out if he agrees to don a superhero outfit, which shrinks the wearer at the touch of a button. Aided by Hank's feisty daughter, Scott masters the suit and learns to mind-control four species of ants.

THE GALLOWES
(15, 81 mins) Horror/Thriller/Romance.

FORGET mathematics, English literature and the American high school curriculum. The supposedly clued-up teenagers in Travis Cluff

and Chris Lofing's low budget thriller urgently need an education in the basics of horror movie survival. The film opens in 1993 at the first night of Beatrice High School's production of a period drama called The Gallows. Something goes tragically awry during the play's denouement and student Charlie Grimille dies in front of distraught parents and classmates. Twenty years later, football jock Reese Houser learns lines for the anniversary production of The Gallows at Beatrice High to impress actress Pfeiffer Ross - unaware the spirit of Charlie stalks the corridors, intent on revenge.

TRUE STORY
(15, 99 mins) Drama

BASED on Michael Finkel's memoir of the same name, True Story plays out a battle of wits between a reporter and a suspected murder-



er. Reporter Michael Finkel is sacked after his editors cast aspersions on the veracity of one of his stories.

Soon after, a journalist contacts him to let him know police in Mexico have apprehended Christian Longo, a man wanted for the murder of his wife and three children. Longo was posing as Michael when he was arrested and,

intrigued, the journalist agrees to visit Christian in prison.

The two men forge a strange bond during a series of conversations.

In exchange for writing lessons, Christian agrees to tell Michael the truth about the killings. The more time Michael spends with Christian, the greater his doubts about the prisoner's guilt.

AS a teenager, Chris Beardshaw was a keen sportsman, running half-marathons for his county, destined to achieve great goals as an athlete.

Suddenly, within the space of 10 days, his feet swelled up so chronically he couldn't walk. The condition spread to his ankles, hands and wrists. His case was a mystery and, after numerous trips to specialists and consultants, he was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis.

His choice was to undergo major surgery on his toes and lower joints, or face a lifetime in a wheelchair.

This is where his interest in holistic treatments began – he changed his diet, eating fewer vegetables which exacerbated his symptoms, such as aubergines, red peppers and tomatoes, cut out red meat, red wine and dairy products and started investigating the power of herbal remedies.

"I went through four-and-a-half years of being explored," the award-winning garden designer and broadcaster recalls.

"I became used to being a curiosity. They were never able to get a full diagnosis on the type of arthritis. I had gold injections, radiotherapy, hydrotherapy and tried Voltarol-based products. Some provided short-term gain, but four weeks later the condition would return."

He found that comfrey cream, arnica and devil's claw helped alleviate his symptoms to a degree, but the whole experience made him think



MEDICINAL: Chris Beardshaw has an interest in holistic treatments.

Common plants for wellbeing

more about the healing properties of plants, some of which he now grows in his own garden.

While one-in-six of us can recognise echinacea, which is used to produce cough and cold remedies, even fewer of us know how to recognise a safe herbal remedy, according to new research from Potter's Herbs.

Yet many plants that can help us

maintain our wellbeing are so easy to grow and we may already have them in our garden.

Common plants which Mr Beardshaw recommends and uses for his own wellbeing include lemon balm.

He said: "It's very easy to grow – once you have it in the garden you'll never get rid of it.

"It's a herbaceous perennial which grows vigorously and has a hawthorn-like leaf.

"You harvest the leaf tips from May to mid-summer and make a tea out of it. Tip on boiling water, let it steep for three minutes and when it's cool enough, drink it.

"It has a citrus zing to it which cleanses the palate and is uplifting. It's

also good for improving circulation."

He also recommended lavender.

"Lavender is anti-bacterial, so it's good to wash your hands in a tea made of lavender.

"It's good for fungal infections, if you've hit your finger while gardening and you have bleeding under the fingernail, it will clean the skin and cuticles," he said.



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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Manston needs airport opened

WITH reference to T Smith's letter (KoS, last week) - you are totally misguided about Manston Airport.

In the 1960s, 70s and 80s it was a successful regional airport with expansion plans. Then, when the MoD sold the freehold to Wiggans-Teape (property developers) in 1980s, because Thanet District Council (TDC) wouldn't buy it, it became prime possible housing development land.

We, the local Save Manston stalwarts have been fighting different land developers ever since, because not one of these previous owners wanted a regional Manston Airport to succeed!

They want instant profits from housing developers!

TDC now has a chance to put these three decades of abuse to rights by agreeing a compulsory purchase order to go ahead in conjunction with Riveroaks (sic). Give them a few years, then tell me you were right. I'll eat all of my air hostess hats!

P Hayfield,
via email

Manston needs less hysteria

DOES every supporter of Manston have nothing better to do with their day than lurk on internet message boards or attend week-day protests?

They attack anyone who doesn't immediately insist on the airport re-opening, claiming some sort of conspiracy, but do not think twice about putting about some, quite frankly ridiculous, stories to try and support their claims.

Do they not realise that by pretending to represent the majority of the isle they are kidding themselves and denying any sort of reasonable argument to occur?

T Evans,
Birchington

Now it's focused on the climate...

YOUR correspondent Ray Duff (Letters, last week) appears to believe there is no credible scientific evidence contesting the theory of climate change but he is quite wrong.

Dr Richard Lindzen, professor of meteorology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, rejects the theory, pointing out that these

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Fracking heck! MP's got his facts wrong

ROSIE Rechter's letter (KoS, last week) couldn't have been more timely since it coincided with South Thanet MP, Craig Mackinlay, publishing a long pro fracking article on his website.

In that article he states "here in South Thanet, permission has been given for Coastal Oil & Gas Ltd (CO&G) to explore the potential for methane gas extraction... near Woodnesborough". This was particularly alarming for the hundreds of local residents who, back in 2013, opposed CO&G's application and in November last year were informed that CO&G had relinquished the Woodnesborough licence.

So what is the current status of this application?

Fortunately a check with the relevant Government department revealed that Mr Mackinlay had failed to do any research prior to publishing his article, as I received this reply: "There were previously four other licences in Kent... located near the coast, all of which have now been relinquished".

The Environment Agency states: "...for exploration in east Kent, [CO&G] did not provide enough information on the protection of the groundwater environment or the local water supplies... [and] have not applied for any environmental permits... for the sites in east Kent".

Given that CO&G would have had to drill an estimated 1,900 wells across east Kent in order to make the extraction process financially viable this is a massive relief.

Mr Mackinlay should read the Government's recently unredacted "Shale Gas Rural Economy Impacts" report which identifies an adverse effect on house prices, increased HGV movements, noise and vibration with very little increase in local employment. He should also be aware that the epicentre of the recent Sandwich earthquake was located directly under the location where CO&G had planned to drill!

John Clandillon-Baker
Secretary, East Kent Against Fracking, Ash

kind of alarmist predictions are self serving, as "these lobbying groups have enormous budgets and, as with any large group, self-perpetuation becomes a crucial concern".

The well-known environmental activist Professor David Bellamy, co-authored a paper arguing that the widely prophesied doubling of carbon dioxide levels from natural, pre-industrial levels was not only unlikely but would also cause less

than one degree centigrade of global warming stating that "there are no facts linking the concentration of atmospheric carbon dioxide with imminent catastrophic global warming".

True climate scientists, not those who masquerade as such, have produced reports stating that "there is little correlation between the Earth's climate and carbon dioxide levels as, at times, the latter

had been 18 times higher than today and were 10 times higher during the intense Ordovician glaciation".

Even many of those supportive of the theory, such as the East Anglian academics whose emails revealed their evasions on the subject, have admitted that there has been no warming for over a decade and now we have the statement from other leading proponents of the theory that we should not expect any changes in the medium term future.

I am old enough to remember when, 50 years ago, we were threatened with a return to the Ice Age, with many claiming that we were merely living in an inter glacial time and that we should expect to see the glaciers begin their march south again.

These warnings proved groundless and fortunately the authorities did not react in the same craven manner with which they have greeted the warmist agenda. The destruction of our most efficient and affordable means of generating energy in the name of reducing what is, in comparison with water vapour, a minor greenhouse gas, at the same time as the developing world pumps out vast amounts of the same, is insane.

The reality was brilliantly summarised in 2004 by Putin's chief economic adviser Alexander Illarionov who said "this is a man-hating totalitarian ideology which manifests itself in totalitarian actions and which tries to defend itself using disinformation and falsified facts".

Colin Bullen,
Tonbridge

Stack is disgrace to the county

AS AN overseas visitor coming to stay in Kent for a week's holiday I was aghast to see Operation Stack, orchestrated by the local police, in action on the M20.

The disruption resulting in delays of at least one hour on a crippled motorway system is bad enough but to find it was a deliberate action rather than any accident or emergency beggars belief.

I know of no other country that closes its largest local motorway to turn it into a truck park. The police chief permitting and overseeing this fiasco should be answering questions in Parliament.

I can't recommend anyone visit or stay in Kent if this cavalier approach to motorway management is the norm.

David Hughes,
New Zealand

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

Kent on Sunday will:

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.

- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to

people living in the county.

- 9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
- 10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.



Margate sunset
by **Kim Cheung from Margate**

To see your photograph printed, email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk, or post it to **Archant KOS Media, Images of Kent, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford, TN23 1PP**. Be sure to include your name, address and a contact telephone number. Unfortunately we cannot return any prints, and please do not send negatives. Note: all digital images must be no less than 200dpi. Please note, our relationship with MyFerryLink has now come to an end. We thank them for their long support.

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Women Seeking

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HELEN, widow 58, medium build, 5ft 4ins, blonde, GSOH, likes a chat, days out, looking to start again with someone of similar age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376243

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 515 4292 Box No: 418117

FEMALE, 59, GSOH, many interests, seeks caring male for fun friendship maybe more. genuine calls only. Text only to Mailbox No: 4819793

GILLY, voluptuous well groomed lady, seeks man to massage and pamper. Tel No: 0906 515 4293 Box No: 412933

GORGEOUS flower, Ashford Kent, 51, larger lady, large personality, easy going, seeks male who likes dogs, animals for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417435

ANN, young looking 40yrs seeks broadminded man of any age/location for no strings discreet times, games and more. Tel No: 0906 515 4294 Box No: 412369

FEMALE easy going, kind, loving, genuine, romantic, car boots, gardening, seeking male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417603

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. Tel No: 0906 515 4295 Box No: 366019

SUSIE fit, friendly, looking for someone to love and look after me, preferably, older, N/S male with own car. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392537

FEMALE seeking male for adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413809

HAPPY young looking lady, 62, likes socialising, conversation, seeking nice man to share good times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407383

KATIE, 5ft 5, slim dark hair, very attractive female, likes most things in life and a good laugh, looking for a similar male. Text only to Mailbox No: 4722127

NICE female looking for decent genuine male for friendship to start out with. Text only to Mailbox No: 4710874

BLONDE female, 5ft 1ins, size 12, likes meals out, drinks, nights in walks, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409025

JAN, 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349

ATTRACTIVE lady early 50's, petite, Scandinavian blonde professional, WLTm professional, caring gent, 50-60's for attention and future together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416569

JAN, 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349

ALISON, 39, petite with long brown hair, hazel eyes, very loving, seeking similar male for an uncomplicated relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416517

ALISON, 30, pretty, slim with long brown hair, fit and active seeks fit older male for energetic relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416497

DEBORAH, 41, intelligent brunette, lovely brown eyes, discreet, many interests, seeks similar male to share fun and good conversation. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416515

ATTRACTIVE black, athletic lady, varied interests, seeks similar white, old fashioned, genuine male for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416215

MAY sexy black African female, 38, hardworking, seeks generous friendly male for mutual rewarding friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416211

SUE young at heart, good looking, enjoy life, socialising, beach walks, gardening, theatre, seeking male, 55-65 to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416171

JACKIE, 32, attractive professional, very smart and feminine, long brown hair, seeks smart, confident, older male who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416297

BECKY, 23, classy blonde, long blonde hair, blue eyes seeks loving older guy to spoil and pamper her. Discretion assured/guaranteed. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416233

LINDA, 26, cheeky, curvy brunette, a little shy at first, likes to look after herself, seeks dark haired male who is discreet naughty but fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416195

TERESA, 39, petite, cuddly and bubbly seeks kind older male to travel, have fun, and take care of, pamper and flirt with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416081

LUCY stunning tall brunette, looking for exciting times, seeks like minded, adventurous male who is willing to try anything once or maybe even twice! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416079

PETITE blonde, blue eyes, very feminine and sensual seeks younger male for friendship and discreet fun. Can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416077

SARAH, 29yr old pretty slim single mum of one, interesting, lively, good fun, enjoys nights in/out, music, seeking similar easy going, genuine, honest man/dad to get to know. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415841

ANGIE attractive nurse 39yrs, new to area/advertising, likes dog walking, being sociable, meals in/out, WLTm honest, fun male for possible fit, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415827

LISA attractive petite Filipino female, very lonely, wanting to find love, companionship and to be happy, looking for friendship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415549

SUE, 65, 5ft 8ins, blonde hair, fashionable, smoker, GSOH, enjoys meals out, travel, animals, WLTm kind, shyish man for friendship, maybe more. Thantet area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415735

BLONDE female, 47, looking for fun, sensual, experienced, understanding, seeking similar. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415675

INTELLIGENT funny guy without a huge ego required for damaged heart. Casey 39, size 10, curves in all the right places, pretty, kind, loving, genuine, romantic and available. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415509

BLACK lady 43, sincere, down to earth, fun loving, likes theatre, cinema, meals out, walks, seeking white gent with GSOH, sincere and down to earth. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415477

JENNY voluptuous blonde tanned well-presented female, enjoys being and giving pampering, cooking, cosy nights, looking for some broadminded excitement. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415399

JOYCE, 39, attractive GSOH, loves nights out, honest, loyal, fun to be with, looking for mature male for adult companionship, meals out and hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415561

NICOLETTE, 32 petite professional attractive black female looking for similar hardworking white male who like me loves life and is serious about finding a LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415545

Men Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

mydate24

BRIAN, 70, Maidstone, seeking female, 60 plus, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, days out and cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410611

YOUNG, 64yr old male, slim, GSOH, adventurous, outgoing, likes most things, seeks easygoing, laidback, open-minded lady for friendship and good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399539

ASHFORD male, 66, GSOH, easy going, smoker, down to earth, adventurous, seeks like minded female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416845

55YR old male, 5ft 9ins, slim, likes swimming, pool, seeking female for fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418265

COMPANION sought, 50-60's by slim, young looking 65yr old man for cinema, music, eating, drinking, talking and laughter. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418257

JOHN nice looking, brown curly hair, gentle, understanding, seeks tall, slim lady for daytime no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418207

BRIAN happy go lucky, genuine, loving, likes nights in, DVDs, meals out, seeking genuine lady for loving, caring relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418197

PAUL, GSOH, 5ft 8ins, medium build, seeking Miss Right for LTR to put the spark back into life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391970

MALE widower, N/S, likes reading, walking, WLTm lady 50-70 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418173

COME dine with me, Attractive black British male 50 yrs, 6ft, medium building, working, GSOH, romantic and genuine WLTm similar female. Text only to Mailbox No: 4763687

PETE, 49, slim, 5ft 7in s, smoker, creative, likes art, live bands, outdoors, seeks similar female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418421

PAUL, 52, seeks loving female for exciting times, meals out, week-ends away, cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418077

MALE widower, N/S, seeks buxom lady, 50-70, likes reading, 60's music, pub quizzes and crosswords. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417905

BRIAN, 71, likes meals out, drinks, nights in, music, walks, seeks female with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417697

PROFESSIONAL, romantic male, 44, likes meals out, cinema, music, holidays, seeks female, 35-55 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 250195

PAUL, 48, 5ft 8ins, GSOH, likes music, cinema, seeks female for fun, friendship and LTR. Tunbridge Wells. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371985

PAUL, 49, 5ft 8ins likes eating/nights in/out seeks loving female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410413

MALE, 71, Tidy, O H A C WLTm Lady late 60s early 70s for easy friendship. Likes animals. Text only to Mailbox No: 4757205

YOUNG 60yr old male, knows how to treat a lady, seeking special lady to spoil for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417909

GOOD looking fit male, romantic kind and passionate, with lots of love to give WLTm a mature lady 55 to 65 for LTR. Text only to Mailbox No: 4760779

MICK, 50, seeks attractive female for nice times out, genuine calls only. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417691

ROAD worker looking for fun times and hopefully more. Great sense of humour. Laughs a lot. Looking for the same in lady. Text only to Mailbox No: 4753610

ROCKABILLY guy, seeks rock chick, 25-50 who likes 50's rock music and bands. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 284750

MALE, 48, looking for fun loving female, enjoys outdoor activities, nights in and meals out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392212

ANDY, 5ft 5ins, retired, 69, solvent, likes most things, meals out, holidays, golf, swimming, GSOH, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417821

67YR old male, slim, 5ft 5ins, many interests, likes holidays, meals out, seeking slim female 55-65 with GSOH to share TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414023

BARRY, 47, 6ft, well built, seeks female for wineing, dining and fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361787

VINCENT, 48, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun nights in and fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373797

48YR old divorced male, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun and laughter. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380789

HAPPY go lucky divorced man, 48, 6ft, well built, seeks gorgeous female to share love and laughs with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383719

GARY, 48, 6ft, well-built, dark hair, brown eyes, seeks passionate female for fun times in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387175

49YR old male, 6ft, well built, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390929

HARRY, 50, ex soldier, 6ft, well built, seeking lady to wine and dine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417015

HAPPY go lucky guy 62, GSOH, seeks fun loving lady, 48-65 for coastal walks, lunches and fun days out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417707



BRIAN, 71, likes meals out, drinks, walks, seeks female with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417697

MICK, 50, seeks attractive female for nice times out, genuine calls only. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417691

ROCKABILLY guy, seeks rock chick, 25-50 who likes 50's rock music and bands. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 284750

BRIAN, 70, Maidstone, seeking female, 60 plus, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, days out and cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410611

JACK, 47, tall, good-looking, average build, GSOH, seeks broadminded female for discreet no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416867

MALE, attractive, kind, loyal, gentle, likes looking for kind, gentle, small lady for friendship and LTR. Text only to Mailbox No: 471124

MALE, 48, looking for fun loving female, enjoys outdoor activities, nights in and meals out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392212

ANDY, 5ft 5ins, retired, 69, solvent, likes most things, meals out, holidays, golf, swimming, GSOH, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417821

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HARRY, 50, ex soldier, 6ft, well built, seeking lady to wine and dine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417015

HAPPY go lucky guy 62, GSOH, seeks fun loving lady, 48-65 for coastal walks, lunches and fun days out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417707

GENUINE fun sexy healthy guy 55, with no ties, looking to date attractive lady 45/57 for fun times and more. Text only to Mailbox No: 4717147

GARETH handsome 40's pilot, strong tall build, seeks daytime discreet passion with lady 30-65. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414421

KIND, tall, medium build, smart, easy going, widower, 71 WLTm Lady 60s early 70s, for easy going friendship. OHAC. Text only to Mailbox No: 4641218

MALE, attractive, kind, loyal, gentle, likes looking for kind, gentle, small lady for friendship and LTR. Text only to Mailbox No: 471124

Gay Seeking

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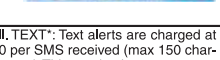
MAIDSTONE bi male, clean-shaven, N/S, seeks similar bi male, N/S for meetings. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416737

Gay male 54 years old, seeks gay male 40 to 42 years old for 121 long lasting relationship. Text only to Mailbox No: 4732986

BI male, slim, passive, seeks older bi M, 75-90, for gentle fun and friendship. Text only to Mailbox No: 4398888

PASSIVE male, 60, overweight seeks assertive male for daytime fun, cannot accommodate. Text only to Mailbox No: 4321273

FEMALE pillion passenger sought for motorcycle rides / adventures and anything else good/bad. Any age/status, 59yr old male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416827



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CIVIC TYPE-R: It's back and more powerful than ever. Honda's hot hatch offers drivers more than 300bhp and a top speed in excess of 165mph. The original Type-R (bottom) as first sold in the UK.



Civic Type-R: The beast is back

Honda's hot halo shines again, with the UK-built Civic Type-R also becoming a 'Coals to Newcastle' export to Japan itself, **writes Steve Loader...**

FIVE years is a long time without a 'halo car' – a model that suffuses your whole line-up with showroom appeal and aspirational ownership. But that's how long Honda has denied itself of the high performance Honda Civic Type-R, possibly due to the Japanese marque's dedication to greener technologies.

But denial is tough, so the Type-R hot hatch beast is back, and badder than ever after embracing turbocharging to deliver a staggering 306bhp, plus a class-leading top speed of 167mph.

Billed as a 'race car for the road', it is the most extreme and high-performing Honda to ever wear the 'Red H' badge, and export markets for the performance star – part of Honda's latest £200 million investment at its Swindon UK plant – include Japan itself.

There's no mistaking the Type-R's intent, with vents and sprouts aplenty to aid the already slippery Civic shape, highly visible red Brembo brake callipers, plus a classic red and black hot hatch interior with eye-catching, body-clutching sports seats.

Honda also claims to have done clever things with the suspension to make the most of all that power and, importantly, transfer it to the road without silly levels of 'torque steer' transmitting to the driver's hands under acceleration.



There's a +R button too that beefs up the suspension, steering and throttle response and, just so you know, the dashboard panel then glows red rather than white.

Switch back to white/normal mode though and the Type-R can be a useable everyday hatch; Honda has broken with tradition and

made it five-door this time – understandable when Swindon is the brand's global centre for five-door Civic production – but hidden rear door handles make it look like a coupe hatch anyway.

It's not cheap though: £29,995 puts it at the top end of the hot hatch price league.

Suzuki Vitara returns to the UK market

ROAD TEST: Suzuki always punches well above its weight on the UK market and this year revived one of its best weapons, writes **Steve Loader...**

SUZUKI continues to impress with its singular approach to making and selling cars. The Japanese brand doesn't contest every car sector. Instead, it picks fights carefully and prices products aggressively – a bantam not to be under-estimated. Its latest jab is the return of the Vitara. The 1990s original was an affordable off-roader boosted by powerful marketing that cost Suzuki nothing; the openback version was the fun hire car of choice on a Spanish holiday.

It finally left the UK market in 2000 after 12 years, the name living on until last year on Grand Vitara models.

But the 'grand' label was dropped for an all-new Vitara launched this year as a compact five-door value-for-money crossover/SUV, available in front-wheel drive or four-wheel drive.

With an entry price of just £13,999, the Vitara looks like a steal, but the returns are less if your aspirations move higher up the range; cheap trimming might irritate if you've forked out more than £20k.

Engine choice is simple: a 118bhp 1.6 petrol or diesel (from £15,499), but the petrol manual has only five



speeds and I found myself looking for a sixth at times, and there's no doubt the diesel's greater low down power, plus economy, will attract some buyers, albeit for a £1,500 premium upfront.

Both are available with the Vitara's 4x4 'Allgrip' package,

adding about £1,800 to the price, but a real bargain.

The test car had this feature, which offers the driver four modes:

'Auto', like most 'soft-roader' rivals to the Vitara, prioritises fuel economy by using front-wheel drive, unless wheel spin is detected and



prompts all-wheel drive into play.

'Sport' optimises the all-wheel drive and engine management for sporty driving, while 'Snow' is for snowy and icy conditions.

'Lock' uses the limited slip differential to help the car if at risk from getting stuck in snow, mud, or sand.

Suzuki Vitara 1.6 Allgrip SZ5 + Rugged Pack

Price:	from £20,299
Driving appeal:	★★★
Image:	★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★
Best rival:	Peugeot 2008

There is also a hill descent control facility and, though I was unable to test it all properly, there's no doubt – relatively low ground clearance apart – the little Vitara would uphold a proud Suzuki cut-price off-road tradition.

And it can look the part too, with a £500 Rugged Pack as fitted to our test car, which includes front and rear skid plates, black fog lamp housings and body-side mouldings – there's an alternative Urban Package with lamp surrounds in chrome, side mouldings, and a roof spoiler.

And here it's clear Suzuki has gone to town on customising options – the modern-day phenomenon – so there's a choice of trim in various areas including roof colour and grille finish.

Space and functionality is good too for such a modest sized car, which slots in below Suzuki's bigger SX4 S-Cross rival to the Nissan Qashqai.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 12.7 (22.3) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 23.9 (11.8) - 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 88.3 (3.2). CO₂ emissions: 373 - 85g/km.#

Personal contract hire offer on Viva SE 1.0i 75PS in Solar Red, subject to availability and status. Age 18+ only. Figures based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £690, then 36 monthly rentals of £115. Excess miles over contracted mileage of 15,000 over 36 months charged at 7.24ppm. Personal contract hire offer on ADAM SLAM 1.2i 70PS in Greenspotting metallic paint with White My Fire roof colour pack, subject to availability and status. Age 18+ only. Figures based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £975, then 36 monthly rentals of £195. Excess miles over contracted mileage of 15,000 over 36 months charged at 7.31ppm. Personal contract hire offer on New Corsa Excite 1.4 90ps ecoflex a/c in Sovereign Silver, subject to availability and status. Age 18+ only. Figures based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £620, then 36 monthly rentals of £124. Excess miles over contracted mileage of 15,000 over 36 months charged at 6.64ppm. Excess charges also apply if you breach manufacturer servicing or maintenance guidelines or if the car exceeds BVRLA Fair Wear & Tear guidelines for its age/mileage when it is returned to Vauxhall Leasing. Package includes Road Fund Licence and Vauxhall Assistance. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. Prices and details are subject to change without notice. For full specification and Ts&Cs contact your local Retailer. You will not own the car. ALD Automotive Ltd., trading as Vauxhall Leasing, B516 3JA. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Offers available on orders or registrations between 2 July and 7 October 2015. #MPG figures are official test data and may not reflect real driving results. Offer applies to pre model year 2016 vehicles only. See Retailer for further details. Correct at time of going to press.

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Grand Burstin Hotel, Folkestone

July-August, 2015 • 3 or 4 nights half board, from **£109pp** • Quote: GB-KOS

The Grand Burstin Hotel is set in a prime position overlooking Folkestone Harbour. It is renowned as one of the UK's top entertainment hotels, so you can relax, dine in style and be entertained all under one roof. Cabaret shows are performed every evening - fantastic entertainment for all ages! The Spindles Health Club has an indoor heated Swimming pool, sauna and a state of the art gym (£4 per session payable on site).

INCLUDED: 3 or 4 nights sharing a twin/double-bedded en suite room • Breakfast and dinner each day • Entertainment every night • Free wifi



Free Drinks
£10pp deposit
Car Ferry included
Over 40s only

Best of the 60s & 70s Christmas Party

27 November, 2015 • 3 nights half board-plus, from **£239pp** • Quote: XN11-KOS
Great Entertainment, Free Drinks, and a super location make Warner's Norton Grange resort, at Yarmouth on the Isle of Wight, our most popular Christmas Party venue. This Christmas we're featuring music from the 60s and 70s including Edison Lighthouse (*Love Grows where my Rosemary goes*) plus tributes to Dusty Springfield and Tom Jones and lots of festive and nostalgic fun. There's also a Free Bar from 6pm to midnight every night.

INCLUDED: Free drinks from 6pm to midnight every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & pumped mixers • 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts • Live nightly entertainment • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades available • Return car ferry



2-for-1 Drinks • Entertainment
Over 40s only • £10pp deposit

Carry on New Year Party at Bosworth Hall

29 January, 2016 • 2 nights half board-plus, **£119pp** • Quote: BW1-KOS

Extend your New Year celebrations at Bosworth Hall Hotel, in the village of Market Bosworth near Leicester. Our popular private party weekends have become a must-do annual event with guests returning year after year. We've arranged a super entertainment line-up for our Party Break, including tributes to Frankie Valli, The Eagles and Kenny & Dolly. You will also enjoy 2-for-1 drinks both nights.

INCLUDED: 2-for-1 drinks from 7pm to 11pm both nights • 2 nights sharing an en-suite bedroom with TV & tea/coffee tray • 2 dinners & 2 breakfasts • Full programme of live entertainment both nights • Free use of leisure facilities (indoor pool & gym)



The Fourmost
Maxine Mazumder
as Dusty Springfield



Free Drinks
£10pp deposit
Entertainment
Car Ferry included
Over 40s only

Back to the 60s Carry on New Year Party

8 January, 2016 • 3 nights half board-plus, from **£229pp** • Quote: BP1-2-KOS

Too busy to do the New Year in December? Join us for a private party at Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel on the Isle of Wight as we extend the New Year festivities into January and take you on a trip down memory lane back to the 1960s. Our exclusive weekend, designed specially for the over 40s generation, includes a gala New Year's Eve party, complete with Big Ben countdown to midnight and a Best of British sing-a-long with all the old favourites including Land of Hope and Glory and Auld Lang Syne. PLUS there are Free Drinks every night from 6pm-midnight to help the party go with a swing. The entertainment line-up features authentic 60s Bands The Fourmost and Union Gap, plus a tribute to Dusty Springfield with Maxine Mazumder.

INCLUDED: Free drinks from 6pm to midnight every night - beers - house lager, bitter and cider; branded spirits including Smirnoff, Bacardi, Bells, Gordon's Gin, Courvoisier, Lamb's Navy Rum, Martini & Harvey's Bristol Cream Sherry; wine by the glass; draught soft drinks and cordials • 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts • 1960s themed live nightly entertainment • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades to main hotel available • Return car ferry crossing Portsmouth-Fishbourne or Lymington-Yarmouth

Private Events - You cannot book these self-drive breaks direct with the hotels/resorts



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Bosworth Hall Hotel, Leicestershire

July - October, 2015 • 4 nights half board, **£139pp** • Quote: BS-KOS

Enjoy a great value, relaxing summer break at Bosworth Hall Hotel, set in 11 acres of landscaped gardens in the village of Market Bosworth near Leicester. The hotel has a leisure club with an indoor pool, gym, tennis courts, bike hire and more - extra charge applies. There's plenty to see and do within a short drive of Market Bosworth; Twycross Zoo, West Midlands Safari Park and Drayton Manor Park are close by.

INCLUDED: 4 nights stay at Bosworth Hall Hotel sharing a twin/double bedded room with en-suite facilities • 4 dinners and 4 breakfasts



Original 70s band Brotherhood of Man
Free Drinks
£10pp deposit
Entertainment
Over 40s only

Christmas Cracker Party through the Decades

20 November, 2015 • 3 nights half board-plus, **£129pp** • Quote: CC11-KOS

Join us for an over 40s Christmas party weekend to remember as we re-wind the decades and go back to the 60s, 70s and 80s at Pontins Pakefield, by the sea near Lowestoft, Suffolk. Enjoy live music from original 70s band Brotherhood of Man, 60s rockers The Swinging Blue Jeans and the new touring show Whitney - Queen of The Night. Add 3 Free Drinks per person per night and you've got the perfect recipe for a great party weekend.

INCLUDED: 3 Free drinks every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrade available • Towels & linen



The Merseybeats
The Ivy League
Free Drinks • Entertainment
Over 40s only • £10pp deposit

We Love the 60s Spring Party Weekend

11 March, 2016 • 3 nights half board-plus, **£129pp** • Quote: PS3-KOS

Join us at Pontins Pakefield, on the Suffolk coast, for a Spring Party - for over 40s only - to blow away the winter cobwebs. We've lined up a brilliant entertainment showbill featuring The Ivy League, The Merseybeats and The Pacemakers plus tributes to The Beach Boys and The Beatles. With non-stop entertainment from Friday evening to Sunday evening and free drinks every night, this is one party weekend you're sure to love.

INCLUDED: 3 Free drinks per person per night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • Full 60s theme entertainment programme • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrade available



The Fourmost
Maxine Mazumder
as Dusty Springfield



Free Drinks
£10pp deposit
Entertainment
Car Ferry included
Over 40s only



Dance champions
Richard & Morgan

Optional Come Dancing Party Package

Just **£50pp** extra • Quote: BP1-3-KOS

Fans of Strictly Come Dancing and dance enthusiasts can add dance tuition, dance cabaret, social dancing, a Gala Ball and much more to this special weekend at Bembridge. Richard Still and Morgan Hemphill, 6 Times UK Ten Dance Champions, will demonstrate for us on the Friday and Saturday evenings and provide a mini Latin workshop on Saturday afternoon. There are reserved tables and seating exclusively for a maximum of 200 dance guests. Tuition - up to 8 hours - is by Philip Wylie of Ballroom & Latin Dance specialists **Holiday & Dance**.



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Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Maidstone Road
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Tel: 01634 844008
Email: office@sjwms.co.uk
Website: www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

An 11-18 Boys' Grammar School of 1200 students including
350 in the co-educational Sixth Form
A member of The Williamson Trust

'OUTSTANDING' Ofsted – "a buzz of excitement pervades the school"

Part Time Librarian

Hours: 20 hours per week term time only (38 weeks)

Grade: C1 point range 17 - 26

Salary: £17,372 - £22,937 per annum pro rata (£7,744 - £10,225)

Applications are invited for the part-time post of School Librarian to manage and be responsible for the promotion and development of our well-resourced library and to provide support for teaching and learning across the curriculum.

The successful applicant will need to possess good IT skills.

The library uses the Eclipse automated system.

OFSTED awarded the school an outstanding grade in every category in our most recent inspection, commenting that "students thrive within its distinctive ethos, enabling them to succeed academically and to develop into confident, well-rounded individuals who are prepared extremely well for their future lives."

The School was designated one of the first 100 National Teaching Schools and is a National Support School.

If you are interested in working with bright, talented pupils, then please contact the P A to the Headteacher Mrs Jacqueline Harrison, (harrisonj@sjwms.co.uk) 01634 844008 or visit our website www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk where further details and an application form can be downloaded.

The Williamson Trust currently consists of Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School, The Hundred of Hoo Academy, High Halstow Primary School, Elaine Primary Academy, Allhallows Primary Academy, Stoke Community School and finally, as a co-sponsored academy, St James Church of England Primary Academy, all providing exceptional career development opportunities.

We are committed to the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service check.

Closing date for applications – 20th July 2015

Interviews will take place week beginning 20th July 2015

Aspire – Achieve – Excel



Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
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'OUTSTANDING' Ofsted – "a buzz of excitement pervades the school"

Two Part Time School Science Laboratory Technicians

Hours: Between 15 - 30 hours per week term time only 38 weeks)

Grade: D2 point 12 – 21

Salary: £15,523 - £19,742 per annum pro rata (£12,715 - £16,170)

We require two Science Laboratory Technicians working between 15 - 30 hours (to be agreed) per week (inclusive of a 45 minute lunch break) Monday – Friday (38 weeks) to work within the Science Department at this highly successful grammar school from 1st September 2015.

You will be motivated, conscientious and a reliable person able to work effectively as a member of a team as well as individually. Experiences in a laboratory environment with school technician experience would be an advantage.

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A family run SME Company, the fifth largest Independent Petrol Station retailer in the UK, located in Hayes, Kent near Bromley is seeking a full time

Accountants Assistant

working Monday to Friday between 9am and 5:30pm
We use SAGE Line 200 and training on this SAGE format will be given but the successful applicant must have experience working in SAGE.
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An 11-18 Boys' Grammar School of 1200 students including 320 in the co-educational Sixth Form
A member of The Williamson Trust

'OUTSTANDING' Ofsted - "a buzz of excitement pervades the school"

Part Time School Science Laboratory Technician

Hours: 30 hours per week term time only (38 weeks)

Grade: D2 point 12 - 21

Salary: £15,523 - £19,742 per annum pro rata (£12,715 - £16,170)

We require a Science Laboratory Technician 30 hours per week (09.00 - 15.45 inclusive of a 45 minute lunch break) Monday - Friday (38 weeks) to work within the Science Department at this highly successful grammar school from 1st September 2015.

You will be motivated, conscientious and a reliable person able to work effectively as a member of a team as well as individually. Experiences in a laboratory environment with school technician experience would be an advantage.

If you are interested in working with bright, talented pupils, then please contact the P A to the Headteacher Mrs Jacqueline Harrison, (harrisonj@sjwms.co.uk) 01634 844008 or visit our website www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk where further details and an application form can be downloaded.

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We are committed to the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service check.

Closing date for applications - 20th July 2015
Interviews will take place week beginning 20th July 2015



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Spencer Private Hospitals are two hospitals situated in East Kent. The larger of the two hospitals is a 22 bed independent hospital situated at the QEOM Hospital in Margate, whilst the second hospital is a 4 bed independent hospital based at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. Both hospitals have a reputation for providing excellent medical and surgical facilities supported by Specialist Consultants, Specialist Nurses and Physiotherapists. We have state of the art diagnostic equipment and exceptionally high standards of nursing care.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in a vacancy for the following staff:

Staff Nurse (Outpatients/Pre-Assessment) - Margate

Part time Hours: 30 per week Closing date: 24/07/2015
Salary: £19,000-20,000

Qualifications and Experience

- Registered Nurse 1st level or Dual Trained Registered Nurse
- Evidence of continual professional development
- Experience in a surgical/medical environment with a knowledge and understanding of surgical/medical procedures

Interviews for this role will be held on 3 August 2015

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: Carolyn Flegg, Outpatients Manager on 07925 978812

Senior Staff Nurse - Margate

Full time Hours: 37.5 per week Closing date: 24/07/2015
Salary: £26-28,000 per annum dependant on experience

Qualifications

- Registered Nurse 1st Level
- Minimum 2 years' experience, preferably in a surgical environment with a broad knowledge and understanding of multi specialist surgical procedures
- Evidence of continual professional development
- Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent

Interviews for this role will be held on 29 July 2015

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: Mary Guarnieri, Ward Manager, 07786 173797

For a job description and application form please visit
www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers

Alternatively, please contact Justine Whittle, HR Assistant

Telephone: 01304 245943

E-mail: recruitment@spencerhospitals.com

Spencer Private Hospitals is an equal opportunity employer. These positions are subject to a Disclosure and Barring check.



Buying Assistant

Due to continued expansion a market-leading supplier to the garden centre trade now requires a Buying Assistant to join its team based in the Ashford Head Office.

Working alongside the Buyers and reporting to the Commercial Director, the role will involve the following:

- Ensuring timely delivery of orders through regular contact with foreign suppliers and freight forwarders; updating our system to provide accurate stock availability information to the sales team.
- Arranging import documentation, coordinating container deliveries and receipt of stock; checking and entering corresponding freight invoices.
- Updating buying plans and forecasts based on weekly sales trends.
- Creating product codes and categories on our database.
- Quality control of goods received and raising the appropriate credit claims to suppliers that have fallen short of the required standards
- Preparing product cost calculations to aid decisions on potential new products.
- Monitoring stocks of point of sale material; obtaining and comparing quotations when replenishments are required.

It is envisaged that you will also become involved in product development and aspects of marketing in due course.

This is an excellent opportunity to join an ambitious, innovative and rewarding company in a varied role at a time of sustained growth. The successful candidate will be expected to show an interest in all aspects of the business, and be flexible enough to assist in other areas as required.

Clear communication skills and attention to detail are vital and the role therefore demands exemplary literacy and numeracy levels. Experience of Excel, Word and Outlook preferred.

Starting salary £18,000 to £20,000 dependent on experience, with regular reviews.

Send written applications in the first instance by 31 July, enclosing a CV, to:

James Hoad
Commercial Director
Apta, Dencora Way, Ashford, Kent, TN23 4FH

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Audit Committee

The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable of Kent Police have an Audit Committee to provide an independent and high level focus on the audit, assurance and reporting arrangements that underpin their good governance and financial standards.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner currently has a vacancy for one member and is seeking applications from people who have:

- High level experience of scrutinising financial information & processes
- Understanding of risk control
- Understanding of and demonstrable commitment to the Nolan Principles
- Willingness to give the time commitment (including reading, preparation time and ad hoc meetings).
- Experience of operating at a senior level in a complex organisation with a variety of stakeholder interests.

The Committee meets around four times a year.

Members will be paid a daily rate of £211.50 (half rate for half days).

Please note, this role requires a level of vetting

For the full details, and to apply, please visit www.kent-pcc.gov.uk

CVs and completed applications must be returned to the above address by midday on the 27th July. contactourpcc@pcc.kent.pnn.police.uk

Interviews will be held on the 27th August.

For further information, please contact
Mr Sean Nolan or Ms Laura Steward on 01622 677055.



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It's jobs for Kent

Batting must get better says Adams

Head coach says Kent must improve scoring in four-day games

Cricket

By Jamie Weir

jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

KENT must improve its red ball cricket, according to head coach Jimmy Adams.

He made the comments in the wake of Kent's six wicket defeat against Surrey on Thursday.

Despite the team setting a decent score for Surrey to chase in the first innings, Kent's batsmen crumbled in their second innings, adding just 99 runs to the board.

The rot was so bad top-order batsmen Daniel Bell-Drummond and Joe Denly made just 15 runs between them.

The lack of consistency has proved an issue throughout the season, with Kent managing solid totals at times, before fading sharply.

Adams, clearly frustrated by his team's lacklustre performance, didn't even look to blame the wicket at the Kia Oval where the County Championship match was played.

He said: "It was an excellent cricket wicket and the ball never did anything out of the ordinary, although the bowlers had something to work with."

"In four day cricket you usually have to work harder in your second innings for runs than you did in the first innings, but that's the game."

"There was very little between the two teams for the first two-and-a-half days, and then in our second innings we batted very poorly and didn't give ourselves a fighting chance."

Despite the team's excellent performances in the T20 Blast series, Adams slammed the county's batsmen,



ADAMS: Frustrated by the lack of Kent's consistency during their County Championship matches

saying that they needed to get better at the long form of the game.

He said: "We have been lacking consistency with the bat all season in red-ball cricket. It is a concern for all of us at the club. Our bowlers did well to earn us a small first innings lead but then the batting unit could not capitalise on that. The decision-making of our batsmen must improve."

New signing Sean Dickson, who

has been snapped up from Second XI cricket, may be able to help. He says he's a fan of red ball cricket.

Dickson said: "From ball one, I just look to bat through that pressure period and then kick on. I'm that type of guy that does pick up on his runs later on in his innings."

Kent's County Championship clash against Essex begins today at the club's Tunbridge Wells ground.

Beach volleyball arrives on Margate's shores

MARGATE is getting ready to welcome Team GB Olympians and international athletes next month (August 15 and 16), as the town gears up for its 'Margate Masters' beach volleyball tournament.

The competition, which draws in thousands of spectators, will see top volleyball stars like England's Phil Smith and last year's reigning women's pairing Jessica Grimson and Vicky Palmer, take to the sands of Margate beach.

Thanet District Council's cabinet member for community services Lin Fairbrass said: "We are thrilled to be hosting the finals of the Beach Volleyball competition for the third consecutive year."

"The players have commented on the incredible reception they receive when they compete here and how



MASTERS: Olympians will be on court in Margate next month

the crowds' reaction keeps them focused and fighting to win the title."

The council's Sport Matters team

which organises the event is now looking for local volunteers to help out. Roles including court marshals, ball retrievers, runners and administrative posts are all available.

Cllr Fairbrass said: "For local people this is a wonderful opportunity to be part of a major event that is broadcast on the national stage."

"Are you going off to university or have recently graduated? Did you want to see what event management is like? Do you want to work in sports development or sports psychology and get a real insight into the world of top-level sport, or work in an environment under pressure? This could be great fun and a great learning experience."

Anyone aged 16 and over can apply for the volunteer roles. To apply call the team on 01843 577032.

Dreamland for Blues with new kit sponsors

IT'S a dream come true for Margate FC after they announced a new partnership with recently redeveloped Dreamland theme park.

The park was announced as one of three new sponsors of the club, which is taking a step up this season, after winning promotion to the Vanarama National League South.

The two other sponsors will be Fujifilm which has a base in Broadstairs, and ATC Fire Safety, based in Faversham.

Eddie Kemsley, the CEO of Dreamland, said the park had wanted to get behind the Blues as its local sports team.

She said: "Like Dreamland Margate, Margate FC has been through a period of recent and successful regeneration."

"We are proud to have our branding on the beautiful away shirts which are designed in Dreamland colours and will help promote the park whenever Margate travel away."

Blues boss, Chris Pope said it showed the club is heading in the right direction.



KIT: The squad have got new sponsors, and new kit



CHAMPS: The Sevenoaks golfers now advance to the grand finals

Wilderness golfers get PGA ProAm title win

WITH the Open golf championship taking place, two Kent players are celebrating their own win in this year's PGA National ProAm regional tournament.

Sevenoaks-based Thomas Wagenhofer partnered with Wilderness Golf Club's head professional David Green to win the tournament's final, held at Walton Heath Golf Club.

The pair were among the first to start play, and despite fighting blustery weather, took a good score around the course which means

they will now play in the grand final at Gleneagles in September.

Mr Wagenhofer said: "It's absolutely fantastic to win, and to play in a final at Gleneagles will be the highlight of a lifetime."

Wilderness club – near Sevenoaks – is also proud of the pair.

Club chairman Simon Neathercoat said: "The Lombard PGA National ProAm is the largest ProAm in the world so naturally we are delighted that Thomas and David have done so well to date. We wish them every success."

Wrotham racers back in BTCC

MOTORBASE Performance racing team topped the table in the British Touring Car Championship's (BTCC) official test at Snetterton.

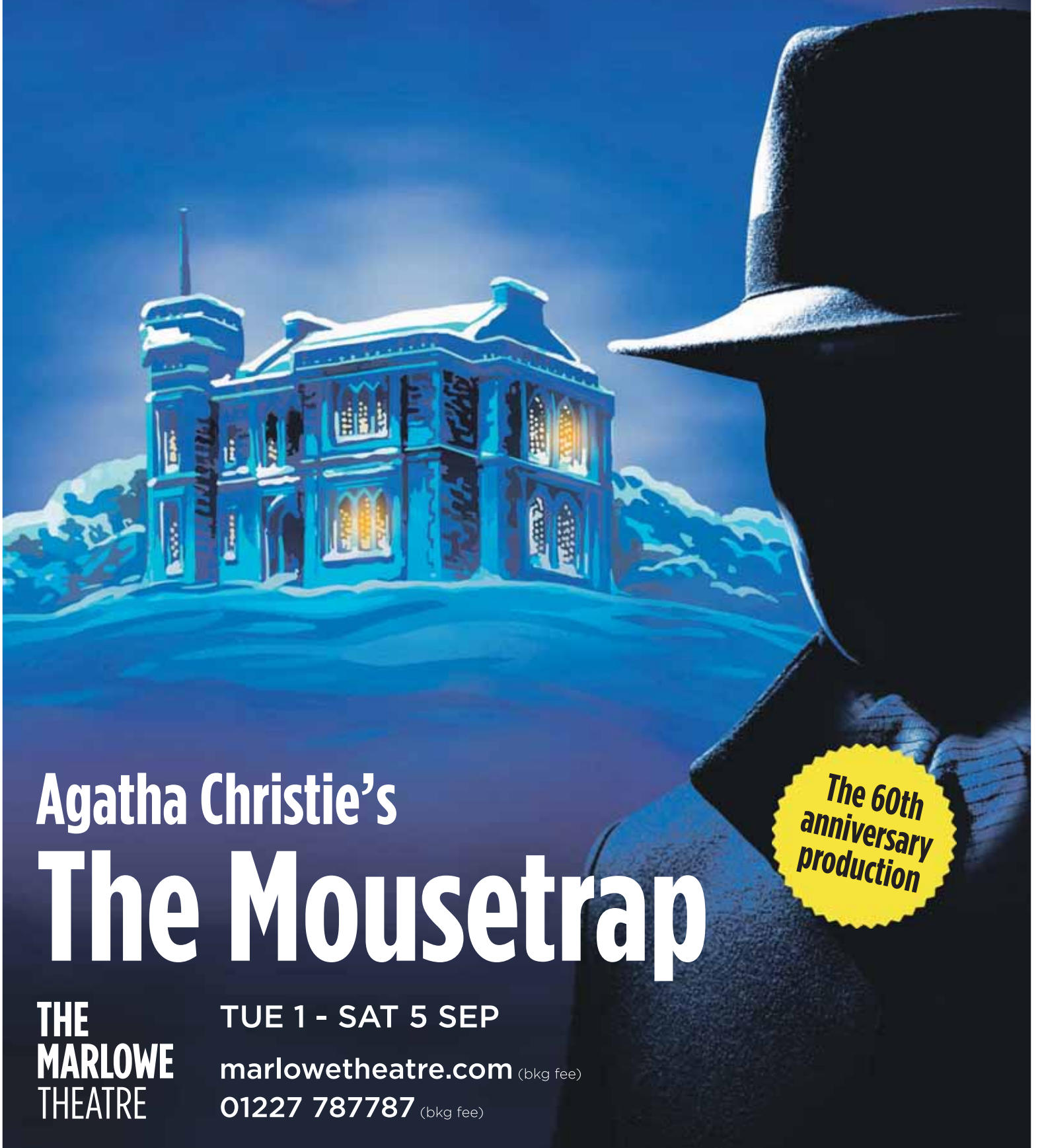
The Wrotham-based team took top honours with a 0.152 second lead just days after announcing they would be returning to BTCC action after being forced to miss the beginning of the season.

Team manager Oly Collins said: "It was a really important test for us today. We've done some testing but we've not been directly up against any other BTCC competitors until today. We knew we had a good car but we really weren't sure how much everyone else had moved on."

Their first race will take place on August 8 at Snetterton.

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